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THURSDAY, MAY 26TH, 2011

FRENCH MULTI-NATIONAL PULLS THE PLUG!

Council picks up the pieces as company scraps bus services

BRIDGEND was scrapping almost 100 services throughout south Wales. The news from Veolia Transport Cymru has left councils throughout the area having to plug gaps

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

in the network, which will be left when the firm cancels these services in June. Veolia is taking out 78 services from the valley

areas, although most of the cuts are in the Rhondda Cynon Taff area. However, services to Blaengarw and to Betws in the Garw Valley are affected, as well as the Bridgend to Maesteg run. Veolia is a French multi-national which moved into Wales in 2005 when it bought Bebb Travel and Shamrock Buses, which were based in the Pontypridd area.

The issue was raised at a meeting of Bridgend Town Council when Coun David Unwin said that it was unclear if the big void left by Veolia could be filled entirely by councils laying on replacement services.

He said: "I have asked the highways department to give borough members a full report on what's happening. At the moment, the council spends about £100,000 a

year subsidising bus services. That sum is up for discussion at the moment with the scrutiny committee."

A spokesman for BCBC said that three services within the borough had been affected – the 16 Bridgend to Blaengarw, the 215 Bridgend to Betws and the 37 Bridgend to Maesteg.

The council has held meetings with bus operators and has arranged for Easyway to take over the Blaengarw Service, and it will also cover the diversion to Heol y Mynydd in Sarn, which the Betws bus previously covered.

Veolia will be paid by the council to provide the 37 service to Maesteg until the next tendering process takes place later this year.

A council spokesman has reassured residents that they would not notice any major changes in the level of service they receive.



AMs Peter Black and Suzy Davies at the launch of the newest branch of National Autistic Society Cymru - Bridgend!
(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 4).

Dog wardens do not put down healthy strays – councillor told

NO healthy dogs are put down when they are picked up as strays in Bridgend.

by JAYNE ISAAC

This policy, implemented by BCBC's dog warden service, has been thrashed out over the years, in conjunction with local animal welfare charities like the Dog's Trust and Maesteg Animal Welfare Society, which both take in stray dogs. Coun David Unwin, who asked a question about how the dog warden service operates, was told that the council employs one dog warden who has statutory responsibilities to deal with stray dogs. His working hours are Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Contractors are used by the council when he is unavailable and they also operate an out-of-hours service in the evening and at weekends.

The number for this is included in the recorded message which people get when they ring the council offices on 01656 643643 out of hours.

During the last financial year, the

dog warden placed 538 stray dogs in commercial kennels where they are kept for seven days so that owners can claim them.

After seven days, the dog becomes the property of the kennels, which can then rehome them.

Forty four dogs were also returned to their owners last year and a further 33 were put down because they were sick.

The warden dealt with a total of 1,345 inquiries involving dogs during the year.

The cost of the service to the council for the year was £66,482 which includes staffing, transportation and kennelling fees.

Coun Unwin said that if you extrapolated from these figures, it was likely that problems of dealing with stray dogs were costing taxpayers £1.5m in Wales, and £20m UK wide.

School celebrates its close community links



BRIDGEND borough's largest primary school, Maes yr Haul, celebrated its strong links with the Broadlands community with a football tournament and fun day organised by the parents and friends' association.

It featured matches involving children, parents and other members of the Broadlands community, as well as a range of action and adventure games, dance demonstrations and plenty of hot

dogs! Headteacher Margaret Lugg said: "This was a real celebration of the school's fantastic links with the community."

"The school has always been at the heart of Broadlands, but these days it is a real community hub, offering out-of-hours classes and facilities for both adults and children."

"We're delighted by the success of the community football tournament and activity day, which celebrates what the school has to offer. Thank you to all those who came along to support it."

Porthcawl poppy party is planned!

PLANS for the Porthcawl Poppy Party are now well advanced as the town branch of the Royal British Legion (RBL) plans to hold the event on Saturday, July 2, and will incorporate Armed Forces Day.

The event is in the grounds of All Saints' Church and will involve local choirs, schools, bands and soloists and revolves around a picnic type scene, with the Porthcawl war memorial proudly taking a prominent position.

The Royal British Legion nationally are providing the bunting, flags and stickers for the occasion which is being held to mark their 90th birthday. Tickets will be on sale shortly.

The celebration of the Armed Forces will also be reflected in the parade of the standards of the Royal British Legion and the attendance of local representatives of the political, social and economic

facets of the town.

The party will start at 3pm and the show will last two hours.

Local RBL chairman Ruth Birch said: "This is going to be a great party to celebrate Armed Forces Day, as well as raising funds for the Legion and Help for Heroes."

There will be an exhibition of the history of the Legion in Porthcawl, and if any member of the public has photographs or any other memorabilia, the Legion would be prepared to copy it and put it on display.

Local writer and historian John David, who belongs to the Porthcawl branch, is organising the display and he can be contacted on 01656 786636.

Members of the Porthcawl branch will be joining members of the Bridgend branch to take part in their celebration of Armed Forces Day on June 25.

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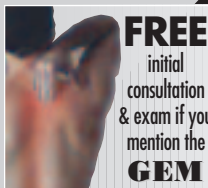
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School pupils put their fingers on crime detection in Maesteg



Some of the students with fingerprint officer Julie Gurner studying their own fingerprints.

PUPILS at Maesteg Comprehensive School have been given an insight into how police crack crime.

Force fingerprint officer Julie Gurner attended

the school to tell them how fingerprints are formed, the differences between individual fingerprints and the technologies available to the police to match fingerprints to suspects.

Pupils were able to look at scenes of crimes marks from real incidents and hear true stories about how single pieces of evidence are used in criminal trials. They were then given the opportunity to take their own fingerprints.

The talk followed on from the previous week where Crime Scene Investigator Charlene Quinn delivered a lesson on what sort of actions are taken to preserve and identify forensic evidence at crime scenes.

Local PCSO Bella Rees explained: "Burglary is a current Llangynwyd PACT priority and the sessions allowed students to ask questions about forensic science identification methods that they have read and heard about in relation to recent Llynfi Valley burglaries."

"The opportunity to relate their new found knowledge to incidents that have occurred locally made the sessions more 'real' and the questions came thick and fast!"

'Don't be a noisy neighbour' – council appeal

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (CBC) is marking National Noise Action Week (May 23-27) with the message 'Don't be a noisy neighbour'.

Last year, its public protection department received more than 1,200 calls from residents and businesses for noise-related problems – and most complaints to the council are from householders stressed about inconsiderate neighbours – and their pets!

Of the 1,200-plus calls received last year, 354 were loud music complaints, 223 related to dogs barking and 997 were classified as noisy neighbour concerns.

B CBC Deputy Leader, Coun David Sage is calling on communities to show consideration for others, especially over the summer, when noise complaints typically rise.

"Noise can have a very distressing effect on another person's life. We've all felt the effects of noise pollution – whether it's a barking dog or a blaring car radio, but many people are forced to put up with much worse throughout the day and night."

"Noise is one of the biggest issues affecting our neighbourhoods and too much noise can damage our mental and physical health."

"We want to encourage our communities to consider the impacts of noise in their area and the simple ways we can all contribute to making our neighbourhoods quieter and healthier."

For further information and advice, visit www.environmental-protection.org.uk/noise or contact the public protection department at pubpro@bridgend.gov.uk or 01656 643643.

Borough council chief re-selected

BRIDGEND County Borough Council Leader Coun Mel Nott, was re-selected, with Coun David Sage as deputy leader, at the council's annual general meeting.

Also returned were Coun Lyn Morgan as cabinet member for wellbeing, Coun Alana Davies as cabinet member for children and young people, and Coun Huw David as cabinet member for resources.

Coun John Spanswick stepped down as cabinet member for communities, with Coun Phil White now taking over the portfolio.

Coun Chris Michaelides was selected as the next Mayor of Bridgend county borough and the Deputy Mayor will be Coun Marlene Thomas. The youth mayor and deputy youth mayor will be Abigail Richards and Catherine Jones, taking over from Amy Bulfin and Hollie Mediana.

Returning as Leader, Coun Nott said: "I'd

like to thank council for my re-appointment and say how privileged I feel to serve as leader of Bridgend County Borough Council. I am well aware that you put enormous trust and faith in me to carry out this important role and I want to assure you that I will continue to do my utmost on behalf of you all, and for the people of this county borough.

"I offer my sincere thanks to all the cabinet members for their ongoing work and dedication. I am particularly pleased that my Deputy Leader will once again be Coun David Sage.

"I am very proud to once again have the opportunity to lead this authority. We continue to work hard to make Bridgend county borough a better place to live, learn, play, work and visit."

TELL US YOUR NEWS!

We welcome your local news, views, and any other items of interest, email: gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Porthcawl Lions gear up for an action-packed week ahead...!

PORTHCAWL Lions are gearing themselves up for a week of community work with events this Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, they are hosting a coffee morning in Trinity Church to raise funds to transport handicapped young people to the Bob Cook Games held annually in England.

MEDALS

The Lions have been doing this for many years and last year returned with a number of medals earned by the youngsters.

The coffee morning starts at 10am and also includes a bric-a-brac stall plus a book sale. Entrance is free.

On Saturday, (again at Trinity Church) the Lions are inviting the public to be tested for diabetes.

Starting at 10am and going on until 2pm, there will be professionals present to ensure that everything is conducted in accor-

dance with the medical profession.

"There is no charge, there is no pain and it's free," said the organiser, Lion Larry Pearce.

There is a last chance for golfers to join the Lions' charity golf day at the Grove Golf Club on Friday, June 10.

Teams of four can enter for £130, with morning coffee plus a magnificent buffet meal and the chance to win major prizes.

CHARITIES

The Lions are supporting the following charities and good causes this year: Porthcawl RNLI, Heronsbridge School, Bridgend, and Glaze the prostate cancer charity based at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Contact Brian 01656 786728, or Tony on 01656 742895 for further details.

DAVID RICHARDS,



Madeleine Moon and Angela Rippon.

Bridgend MP adds her voice to Carers' Week

BRIDGEND MP Madeleine Moon has teamed up with TV presenter Angela Rippon to support this year's Carers Week (June 13-19).

Its theme is 'The True Face of Carers' which calls for greater recognition for the people who have caring responsibilities.

The MP met Angela Rippon at the House of Commons to pay tribute to carers, and to urge that they receive more support in their caring roles.

Mrs Moon commented: "Thousands of people in Bridgend sacrifice not only their time,

but also their money

and their health in

order to care for a loved

one. Together, they save

this country an aston-

ishing £119 billion.

"They deserve to be

recognised for their

contribution to both

our local community

and to wider society.

"I am taking part in

Carers Week to show

my respect and appreci-

ation for our carers.

"I also want to let

them know that there

are services out there to

help them. Caring can

be so incredibly

demanding.

"It's important that

carers know that they

ed: "Thousands of peo-

ple in Bridgend sacri-

fice not only their time,

ed.

PACT meetings

COITY PACT, Gilead Chapel Hall, Coity, June 2 at 7pm.

BRACKLA PACT, Brackla Junior School, Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend, June 9 at 6.30pm.

BYNTIRION, LALESTON & MERTHYR MAWR PACT, Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston, June 9 at 7pm.

MORFA WILDMILL PACT, The Community Hub, The Precinct, Wildmill, June 9 at 6.30pm.

NEWCASTLE PACT, Civic Offices, Angel Street, June 14 at 6.30pm.

OLDCASTLE PACT, The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School, July 6 at 6.30pm.

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HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL JUNE 2)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
26 Thur	02.34	7.6	15.11	7.5
27 Fri	03.48	7.7	16.24	7.7
28 Sat	04.52	7.8	17.22	8.0
29 Sun	05.43	8.1	18.11	8.2
30 Mon	06.31	8.4	18.49	8.5
31 Tues	07.11	8.6	19.26	8.8
01 Wed	07.51	8.9	20.11	9.1
02 Thur	08.29	9.2	20.39	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

Gift of talking newspapers

THE Rotary Club of Porthcawl is supporting the Ogwr Talking Newspapers Association with a grant for the purchase of weekly CDs for each of the 130 blind and visually impaired persons in the county borough of Bridgend, and to also replace wallets damaged in the post.

Five Porthcawl Rotarians are currently members of the Talking Newspapers teams, including the chairman and past president David Philpot, who was the founder of the association in this area more than 35 years ago. David was awarded the MBE for his dedicated work for the society.

BT Openreach volunteers power into Maesteg Park – to help fly the Green Flag

THE Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park (FMWP) were delighted to accept an offer of help from the British Telecom's Openreach Volunteers – when it was made by Jonathan Price, one of their members, a few weeks ago.

The volunteers are a group of apprentices who help out in the communities around South Wales.

It was agreed that they would concentrate on the amphitheatre area of the park.

This was an ideal chance to make improvements in this area of the park which has now been selected by the parks department of the council, the friends and councillors for extra work so that it can apply for coveted green flag status.

The amphitheatre was dug out by the miners during the 1926 strike and lock out for many years, it had a bandstand. It is of great historic significance to the community in the Llynfi Valley.

At the moment, the focal point of this area is the skateboard park and BMX ramp installed by the town council which has fallen into a state of neglect.

The Friends want to turn this area into a more user-friendly territory for



REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

the youngsters members of the community. By cleaning it up, it is hoped that a sense of pride will be developed.

Nineteen apprentices turned up on the day, plus many Friends, who beavered away with hoes, litter pickers spades and pruners.

The brambles had to be left in situ in case they were harbouring nesting birds or wildlife, but it was decided to unearth the old path which goes around the floor of the amphitheatre and is now an ideal cycle track to be augmented by mud jumps.

Steps leading to the different levels were also uncovered and cleaned

off, providing a lovely open view of the amphitheatre as it was intended.

Some overhanging trees were cut back and their branches were fashioned into habitats for wildlife in sheltered areas.

There was also the backbreaking job of removing the ever-present Himalayan Balsam.

The day's work was witnessed by MP Huw Irranca Davies and councillors Mal Reeves, Ian Jones and Ross Thomas.

The work was accompanied by tea and cakes – which went down a treat with the BT volunteers and Friends alike.

It is hoped that they



will make a return visit later in the year when the brambles can be tackled.

A spokesman for FMWP offered thanks to the following: James Balchin, Gavin Brown, Ross Clarke, Jonathan Davies, Gareth Edwards, Matthew Faull, Vincent Gregory, Mark Hanks, Verity Jeffreys, Gavin Joseph, Josh Llewellyn, Christian Madge, Gregg Meredith, Luke Lewis, Meredith, Abbie Sullivan, Kevin Whitfield, Sophia Williams and organiser Jonathan Price.

Porthcawl school pupil cast as the boy in 'Blake' film

JACK WILLIAMS, a year-4 pupil from St Clare's Prep School in Porthcawl, recently had a very special opportunity when he was cast as 'The Boy' in a short film shot in Cardiff.

Jack, who is a member of the Bridgend Youth Theatre, had a number of scenes with award-winning actor Ray Winstone, as well as Amanda Drew who is best known for her role as the psychotic Dr May Wright in the BBC soap opera *EastEnders*.

'Blake' is a short film about the events surrounding the great artist William Blake's only ever public exhibition of paintings, in London's Soho in 1809.

Told through the eyes of his devoted wife Catherine (Amanda Drew), it explores the tragedy of a genius misunderstood and ridiculed in his own time, and depicts how they are ultimately redeemed by the faith and love they have for one another. Ray Winstone plays the title role.



ABOVE: Jack Williams and Ray Winstone.

Directed by Ryan Andrews (Family Picnic), the short film is one of five projects from Wales' most exciting new film-making talents, selected for the short film scheme, Digital Shorts Wales 2010.

The film had its official screening at The Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff on April 10.

Digital Shorts Wales 2010 executive producer, Roger Burnell from It's My Shout, who has helped shape the early

careers of some of our leading acting, writing and directing talent, like Ruth Jones and Rob Brydon, added: "Having worked closely with talent throughout my professional career, it is extremely rewarding to see such strong examples of Wales' excellence coming through this highly selective process."

"I'm really excited at the thought of seeing how these great scripts translate onto screen."

BRIDGEND NEWS in brief

WORK now under way on the old stone bridge should take up to eight weeks, Bridgend Town councillors have been told.

The repairs are being done by BCBC under the supervision of CADW as the bridge is a scheduled ancient monument.

Access to the shops on the bridge is being maintained at all times.

THE name of a Bridgend soldier killed during the Second World War is to be added to the war memorial in Dunraven Place.

Bridgend Town Council was contacted by Sir Arthur Edwyn Turner-Thomas, who pointed out that the name of Private Emrys John Williams of the South Wales Borderers, who was killed in North Western Europe on November 30 1944, had been omitted from the list. He was a resident of Coity Road.

The council has agreed to add his name to the memorial.

(The GEM would be interested to hear from

any relatives or friends of Pte Williams.)

THE model of Island Farm Prisoner of War camp which used to be housed at the County Library Headquarters, is now back with Bridgend Civic Society which owns it.

The society said that it had been given the model by the police museum some years ago and it was stored at the library.

The society has recently taken possession of a marble plaque which commemorates the opening of Bridgend General Hospital.

The society is asking the town council for suggestions about where these items can be put on display, although the Island Farm model may go on loan to the art department of Brynteg Comprehensive School if society members are agreeable.

COUN Haydn Morgan reported that lights which have been on 24/7 in Herbert Street are still on, despite being reported to BCBC last month.

Store's £2,000 for charity

MORE than £2,000 has been raised for the Bridgend branch of Riding for the Disabled by staff and customers of Sainsbury's.

The charity was chosen by the store for the year 2010-2011 and it has just closed its fundraising.

Activities included bag packing, raffles, name the bear and the like, and staff and volunteers from the branch were involved in the fundraising.

The cheque was handed over to Clive Roberts and Liz Worthington of the charity who were invited to the store.

Mr Roberts said that they were very grateful: "This was a great gesture by Sainsbury's, especially when there are so many other good causes around," he said.

"It has raised our profile within the community and has also given us some much needed funds."

"I want to thank everyone involved on behalf of the disabled children who enjoy taking part in our riding sessions."

The Bridgend branch moved a few months ago to Pencoed College where they now stage their classes.



BOX MAKING.



WHAT CONCENTRATION!

Welfare Park welcomes its new residents – more bats and birds!

THE sun shone down on Maesteg Welfare Park recently to welcome everyone to the Friends of Maesteg Welfare Park's 'Wildlife Hotel Day' – a better title than the 'bird and bat box making day' which it essentially was.

At 10.30am, a band of enthusiastic Friends were surrounded by wood, screws, hammers and cordless drills, as well as cupcakes, loaf cakes and lemon drizzle cake!

Half-term with Alice!

A RANGE of activities – from storytelling to crafts – will be available during half-term in Bridgend borough.

Each session run by BCBC's library and information service is available free of charge for under-11s at libraries in Aberkenfig, Bridgend, Pencoed and Pyle.

During National Family Week, there will be a tea party in the park for the Mad Hatters storytime and tea party on June 1 at 3pm at Newbridge Fields, Bridgend.

Based on Lewis Carroll's *Adventures in Wonderland*, meet Alice, the Mad Hatter, the Dormouse, and even the White Rabbit! Listen to weird and wonderful stories, take part in face painting and balloon modelling and enjoy a drink and a snack. Admission is free.

For further details, call 01656 642048.

By 11am the pavilion was full of the sound of drills, grunts of effort as screws were driven home, and, of course, the welcome slurps of tea.

Outside on the lawn it was a hive of activity at the tables where the bee hotels and bird feeders were being made. The total concentration on the face of the young and old as they decorated their apple bird feeders with various patterns was an inspiring sight. These were the ingenious ideas of Helen Green, the group's bio-diversity representative.

A fabulous morning stretched into afternoon until there were six adopted bat boxes, 20 bird nesting boxes and a wonderful tawny owl box (many thanks to Anthony Williams) lined up along the walls of the pavilion.

Thanks to the Parks department of BCBC, the boxes were hung up in the trees throughout the park in the next few days.

Some of the boxes are already being used by families of birds. The tawny owl box will go up in autumn after careful selection of a location to suit our noisy resident.

We are planning many future events, but in the short term we want to establish a herb garden in the park, so we would like to put in an appeal for any herbs that you no longer want.

Please drop them into the pavilion in the park. If you are interested in becoming a Friend, contact us on lynne-harris-seal@talktalk.net. It only costs £1 to join.

Lynne Harris-Seal



LEFT: At the launch were: Karen Shore, Jill Grange, Carol Williams, and Coun Alana Davies.

How parents' group grew into branch of the Autistic Society

THE launch of the newest branch of the National Autistic Society Cymru took place at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion.

The Bridgend branch, which covers the whole borough, started off as a parents' support group, but has grown into a fully-fledged part of the charity.

The launch was attended by Regional AMs Peter Black, for the Liberal Democrats, and Suzy Davies for the Welsh Conservatives.

Also present was Coun Alana Davies, the BCBC cabinet member for children, who was invited to cut the special cake to mark the launch.

She said that she was delighted to be present and told THE GEM that it was the carers and parents of autistic people who were the experts.

"They know exactly what they need us, the local authority, to provide, and they are very effective lobbyists and we have been able to help."

Coun Davies said that her cabinet colleague, Coun Lyn Morgan, whose brief includes adult social services, was the council's autism champion.

"We need to constantly remember that autism is not only about children but also about the adults who suffer from it," she said. "People have to make the transition from being looked after by children's social services to being looked after by the adult team."

"There have been

by JAYNE ISAAC

improvements in this transition process, but we need to ensure that it is better handled in the future, and we are working together to try and ensure that."

Suzy Davies AM said that this group was a wonderful example of how things had grown up from the grassroots to fill a need.

"This organisation does a tremendous amount of work in the community both nationally and here in Bridgend."

"The new Bridgend branch has very strong community ties and these are crucial, even though they are now part of a larger organisation."

"I have been very impressed with what the Bridgend branch is doing to support its members and I know that joining the National Autistic Society Cymru will give members the best of both worlds in the future."

Peter Black AM said that these support groups were absolutely essential: "Parents can feel isolated coping with an autistic child but being able to meet other parents going through the same thing is very helpful and means they can band together to fight for the help they need."

Carol Williams gave the assembled group a potted history of the branch, which was originally set up by parents Clare Tuck and Sharon Howley in 1997.

They spoke to social worker Pat Cudd, who was present at the launch, who helped them contact

other parents and that's how it all started.

Jill Grange, who chairs the new branch, said that the support group decided last year to affiliate to the society.

The branch has between 30 and 40 members, with about a dozen people of so attending meetings.

She explained: "We are a support group and some people dip in and out to suit their circumstances, while others come every month."

Jill said that the new branch will be able to give people information about what's happening locally, which was very important.

Things were getting better, although people still have to travel further afield to get everything they need: "Having an autistic child does put an enormous strain on families and family breakdown can occur, but we hope that the support we are able to offer does help."

"Social Services in Bridgend are very supportive of families and GPs are also more aware now of the problem and are making earlier diagnoses."

Mrs Grange said that as part of a national charity, they were hoping to stage more events and attract high-profile speakers to them.

The branch meets monthly at Y Bont in Ewenny Road, Bridgend, normally on the first Wednesday of the month at 1pm. But the next meeting will be on June 15.

The branch can be contacted on 07767 353387, or e-mail bridgend@nas.org.uk

The society now has 10 branches in Wales and 103 nationwide. Karen Shore, regional officer for south Wales, said that there was an increased awareness of autism now throughout society and diagnosis of the condition has improved over the years.

Autism affects one person in a 100 and the severity of the condition goes right across the spectrum, including Asperger's Syndrome.

She explained that autism is a life-long condition which not only affects children, but adults throughout their lives. The condition varies from person to person.

If the condition is diagnosed early, interventions can be put into place to improve the lives of sufferers.

Each branch carries out a range of activities including inviting experts to help parents and others understand the condition. The society publishes a range of literature and holds workshops.

Some branches produce their own newsletters, which contain local information.

There are also social events, family activities and playgroups plus fundraising and campaigning for greater awareness, services and educational provision.

"It's all about providing the right support at the right time," Mrs Grange added.

Bridgend College students win five out of nine awards in national IT competition

IT students from across Wales descended on Bridgend College on May 20, to take part in three prestigious WorldSkills UK competitions to find the nation's most talented Cisco and Microsoft operators.

The event is part of a network of contests that are arranged by the Welsh Government with the support of the European Social Fund, to promote the importance of developing a workforce with strong vocational and trade skills.

Competitors tested their skills in three categories: Cisco Network Technician, Microsoft Applications Specialist and Microsoft IT Technician. They performed a number of practical tasks similar to what they might experience in a normal day at work.

Bridgend College students won the following awards:

- Christopher Bayliss – first place Microsoft IT Technician.
- Andrew Bayliss – second place Microsoft IT Technician.
- Stuart Henderson – first place Cisco Network Technician.
- Matthew Parker – third place Cisco Network Technician.
- Abigail Davies –

third place Microsoft Applications Specialist.

This WorldSkills UK competition was one of a number of regional heats currently taking place across the UK, and winners at these events will have the opportunity to progress to compete in the UK-wide final with the chance of representing the UK at a WorldSkills International event in 2013.

Bridgend College also hosted a unique Junior Skills 'The BIG Challenge' Competition for four local primary schools (Litchard, Llangynydd, Dolau and Llanilltud Fawr).

The first of its kind in Wales, the pupils from these schools took part in the following skills challenges:

- Design a poster advertising the IT WorldSkills competition.
- Put together a presentation about the IT WorldSkills Competition.

• Design a bilingual logo for Junior Skills 2011.

- Build a sculpture from recycled materials.
- Entries were then judged by: Tracy Bennett (Ensigner), Jonathan Price (Skills Factory), Councillor Tildesley (Bridgend County Borough Council), Robert Evans (Bridgend College) and Grant Cockerill (Groundwork), with each school winning one of the challenges.

This initiative is a fantastic opportunity for seven and eight-year-olds to 'have a go' at competing in a skills based competition, and to prepare and inspire the next generation of WorldSkills competitors.



Andrew and Christopher Bayliss – second and first placed Microsoft IT technicians.



Abigail Davies – third place Microsoft Applications Specialist.



Stuart Henderson – first place Cisco Network Technician.



Matthew Parker – third place Cisco Network Technician.

John Morgan, head of school, business and Information Technology at Bridgend College said: "These competitions are a great way to celebrate success and to introduce students to 21st century skills."

"It is vital that as a nation, we continue to promote and develop these essential IT skills to ensure the future competitiveness of our economy."

"Simply taking part in a WorldSkills UK competition can make a competitor a more attractive employee, and being able to say they took part provides evidence of the quality of their work."

"Alongside the main competition, we also held a junior competition as a catalyst for getting youngsters from local primary schools interested in new technologies."

"It was an exciting event all round".

BRIDGEND NEWS/ in brief

• **TOILETS** at Cheapside, which were the subject of a complaint last month, are cleaned three times a day, according to Coun David Unwin. Despite that, five minutes after being cleaned, they could be dirty again.

• **WORK to improve the environment** at allotment sites at Coychurch Road and Jubilee Road, Bridgend, will cost £8,080, Bridgend Town Council has been told. The

funding is being provided by the Welsh Government.

• **BUSES** are having difficulty accessing Market Street as they emerge from the bus station after 6pm, according to Coun Unwin.

He said that cars are parked in the area illegally, and there was an incident recently when a bus was delayed for 10 minutes trying to turn into the street. The town council has agreed to write to the police and

ask them to enforce the parking restrictions.

• **WORK on the Highland Place play area is to start shortly, with completion by the third week in July, Coun David Unwin told Bridgend Town Council.**

The town council has worked with BCBC to provide this play park in the wake of the tragedy involving a six-year-old girl who was crushed nearby by automatic gates.

KENFIG HILL RUGBY ROUND-UP

Team on fire after straight wins

YSTALYFERA finally came to Kenfig Hill to play and were rewarded for their prevarication by a sound thrashing by a rampant Mules side who played some dazzling rugby.

Kenfig Hill scorers: Kyle Evans (four tries); Chris Tossell (two); Owen Davies; Scott Hancock; Scott Waller; Raymond Evans (five conversions).

Kenfig Hill Firsts v Morriston
THIS was another outstanding performance from Kenfig Hill, defeating Morriston 61-7.

Full-back Raymond Evans had an outstanding game, as did left winger Matthew Tossell, while Gareth Downes had a good game at open side flanker.

It was good to see prop Gavin Reffell back on the field after a lengthy lay off with injury.

Kenfig Hill scorers: Raymond Evans (three tries); Matthew Tossell (two); Kyle Evans (two); Chris Tossell; Rhodri Clark; Nicky Giles (eight conversions).



Owen Davies easily beats an attempt at a tackle by Ystalyfera.
PICTURE BY PETER GILLING



Scott Waller grounding the ball for his try.
PICTURE BY PETER GILLING



Rhodri Clark hands off a would-be tackler.
PICTURE BY JOHN HYDE

GO'S

2,000 JOIN THE RACE FOR LIFE IN CANCER CHARITY'S FUNDRAISING DAY IN BRIDGEND



PCSO Donavan Smith meets some friendly penguins.

BRIDGEND'S first Cancer Research UK Race for Life was held at Newbridge Fields recently.

Women of all ages took part in a 5k walk, jog or run and a large crowd of spectators gathered to cheer on the runners.

South Wales Police also had a number of competitors in the race – Detective Inspector Sue Sidford, Police Constables Joeli Sweeney, Andrea James, Kelly Thomas, Sam

Beaumont, Police Community Support Officer Lisa Moore and Zoe Tee from the contact management centre, all of whom were raising money for the worthwhile cause.

Bridge FM provided music during the event and the ladies from Curves also got everyone in the mood with a quick warm-up! After completing the course, participants were rewarded with a medal, goody bag and a bottle of water.



PCSOs Smith and Heather Dobbs with friends.



Zoe Tee (in white top) from the South Wales Police contact management centre, with a group of friends.

LOCAL GROUPS (and charities) GET TO SPEND A LOTTERY GRANT WINDFALL

A LOTTERY grant of nearly £1 million (£982,637) has been awarded to enable Tenovus cancer charity to establish 15 new 'Sing for Life' choirs for cancer patients over 50 years old, their families, carers, friends and those who have been bereaved through the disease across Wales.

Other groups to benefit from recent Lottery grants include the Alzheimer's Society, who will use £1,945,018 to provide a befriending and advice service for sufferers living in isolated areas; Deafblind UK which will receive £603,786 to help older people with sight and hearing loss access services and RNIB Cymru which will use £362,504 to support blind and partially-sighted older people.

The Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) will spend its Lottery award of £835,953 on a project to provide community cafes and one to one befriending for older people across Bridgend. This will involve 'social involvers' phoning someone for a chat, providing support to attend appointments or visiting someone at home.

They will also promote the community cafes which will run for three hours a week from venues in the community.

The project will develop two existing cafes and establish four more in Bridgend county.

Heidi Bennett, Director of BAVO, explained: "The community cafes and social involvers project will befriend vulnerable and isolated older people across the county and encourage them to socialise, access information, and generally support them so that they ultimately feel they have a better quality of life and improved sense of wellbeing."

Mental Health Matters Wales Ltd in Bridgend receives £381,043 for a 'Moving On' befriending and mentoring project partnership with Mental Health Matters Wales Ltd and Bridgend People First, a learning disability organisation.

The project will support people aged 50 plus who are socially isolated due to mental health issues or learning disabilities, prioritising those who do not have family and friends in Bridgend county borough.

The Vale Centre For Voluntary Services, Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, was awarded £887,327 for its 'Friendly Advantage' project.

It offers a range of befriending models to reduce loneliness and isolation and improve the wellbeing of older people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

Age Concern Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan has been awarded £962,396.

Its project will provide a regional advocacy service, run in south east Wales by four Age Concern organisations developing their existing partnership.

Epilepsy children and carers enjoy a sporting get-together!



ABOVE: The children with Ospreys star Jamie Nutbrown.

ABM's children's epilepsy nursing service recently organised a special evening out at the Liberty Stadium for children with epilepsy from Bridgend, Neath and Port Talbot.

Nineteen children, their carers, and staff from the children's epilepsy nursing service had a meal together before watching the Ospreys v Cardiff Blues game.

Ospreys star, Jamie Nutbrown, presented each of the children with an Ospreys rucksack containing an Ospreys tracksuit and jersey.

The event was organised by Lisa Phillips, children's epilepsy nurse specialist, with help from Sian Townsend, assistant lead nurse, paediatrics.

Lisa commented: "Once again, we are very grateful to Cymorth/Bridgend Children's and Young Peoples Partnership

whose funding has made this evening possible; and also for the help and support of Bethlehem Church Life Centre.

"We had a fantastic evening. The children had a wonderful time and you would never have guessed that some had never met each other before."

"The evening also gave the parents and carers a chance to meet and get to know each other."

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

FRIENDS of the Heritage Coast recently met at the Heritage Centre, Dunraven Bay, Southerndown, for their annual general meeting, which was well attended.

Retiring chairman, Howard Lewis, was given a vote of thanks for his work over the past few years and the new chairman for the forthcoming year was elected – Brian Acott from St Athan.

The vice-chair will be appointed from the Llantwit Major Town Council. The secretary and treasurer and committee are to remain the same and they were thanked for their work over the years.

It was agreed to drop the annual A-Z raffle but to replace it with a get-together later in the year.

It was resolved to write to the Dunraven family on the recent death of the Earl of Dunraven, president of the Friends of the Heritage Coast.

The meeting concluded with a film by ranger Paul Dunn, showing some of the work carried out by the rangers along the coast.

THE annual general meeting of the Community Council took place at All Saints Church, Southerndown, when outgoing Coun Geoff Gaen gave a report and installed new chairman Coun Alan Morgan with the chain of office.

The vice-chair will be Coun A Wilson. Various committees were set up. All were commended for their work during a difficult year without a clerk.

Meetings will remain the same with an open meeting every second Monday of the month, with the exception of August at All Saints Church, Southerndown, at 7pm.

The next PACT meeting with take place on June 8 at 6pm at the Church Hall, St Brides Major.

LADIES Thursday Club held its annual general meeting at the school on May 12. This was a sad occasion as the club is closing after 64 years and the last event will be a luncheon at the end of July.

WISHING a speedy recovery to Eva Morgan of Blaen Dewi, Wick, who is in hospital after a recent fall at her home.

All your friends hope you will be home soon.

V A Newman Glass Quiz League

HERE are this week's teasers:

1. Which King of England died of a wound he received at Chalus-Chabrol in France in 1119?

2. Which song beginning 'Hello Darkness My Old Friend' was written by Paul Simon in wake of the assassination of President Kennedy?

3. In golf, which player is nicknamed 'The Goose'?

4. The volcano Hekla which was known as 'Gateway to Hell' because of its frequent eruptions is located in which European country?

A RUDGE (For Quiz League)

ANSWERS:
1. Richard the Lionheart.
2. Sound of Silence.
3. Relief Goosen.
4. Iceland.

Were London's streets really paved with gold in the past?

IN next week's episode of the S4C family history series *Perthyn*, the subject is Welsh businesses in London, as Porthcawl's Olive Corner, originally from Ceredigion, traces her family tree, and there's a special surprise hidden in the National Library archives which amazes Olive!

In the programme on Wednesday, June 1, viewers learn about the Welsh people who moved to seek a better life in London in the late 19th and beginning of the 20th Century.

Olive's mother was born in London. Her grandparents – Evan and Gwladys Evans – ran dairy businesses in the city during the 1930s and socialised in a strong Welsh community.

At that time there were 1,700 dairies in London and many were owned by families with Welsh



names such as Evans, Lewis and Jones.

"I wanted to know their history – why they decided to move to London in the first place and what their life was like. I used to watch the drama series *Y Palomar Aur* on S4C and that's how I imagine their life in London," said Olive, who is also keen to know why her grand-

parents returned to farm in Ceredigion.

"My mother was very young when they left London so she doesn't remember much. Her generation hasn't shown much interest in the past, so they can't share the story with us."

"It's the next generation who wants to know," adds Olive, who began looking into the family history following the death of her grandparents, and now regrets not asking them more about their life.

However, as the team at the National Library delves deeper into Olive's story, they uncover a connection which takes the family line back more than 1,000 years.

Not many people can claim to trace their family so far back and a discovery in the year 950 comes as a complete surprise for Olive!

Could she be a descendant of one of the most important figures in Welsh history?

Perthyn: Wednesday, June 1, 9.30pm (English and Welsh subtitles).

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS



ABOVE: Beatrice Alsop Jones (on right), co founder of MCC.

Correct date...

I am afraid there was an error in last week's edition: the concert to raise funds for St Michael's and All Angels Church, Maesteg's restoration work is to take place on Friday, June 17, (not June 21) at 7pm.

Tickets can be obtained from choir members, or payable at the door.

Cultural weekend

ON June 10 at 7pm, there will be a concert in Aberkenfig Bible Church, Pandyr Road (Old Lyric Cinema).

Taking part will be two well-known local choirs, along with soloists renowned for winning events in both local and national competitions.

Tickets cost £5 and can be obtained from Aubrey Evans on 07737 793027 and Mr G Brace/Mr M Davies on 01656 722078/656276.

On the same evening in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Tondy and District Arts Society will have their annual summer exhibition opened by the Mayor of

Bridgend County Borough.

The exhibition will be open to the public, from June 11-14. Opening times: 10am-6pm Saturday to Monday, 10am-4pm on Tuesday. There is expected to be a total of 190 subjects on display.

Ladies choir

OGMORE Valley Ladies Choir and Society, who each year raise thousands of pounds for charity, will be performing at a concert in The Rest, Porthcawl on Friday (May 27) at 7.30pm.

In the next 12 months they are hoping to raise enough money to buy heart monitoring machines for doctors' surgeries in Nantymoel and Ogmore Vale.

At present, patients who require this essential service have to travel to the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Chapel service

THERE is a special anniversary service at Horeb Baptist Chapel, Nantymoel on May 28 at 4pm, to celebrate the chapel's 133rd year.

Children's choir

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ

TEL: 01656 725399

email: tyncoed1@yahoo.co.uk



I went to the Maesteg Children's Choir concert at the Salvation Army Hall, Maesteg, last Friday and was impressed by the youngsters under conductor and musical director Enid-Siân Hughes and accompanist Ryan Wood.

The first song was the Abba song, 'Thank you for the Music', which they sang with great gusto; and it set the tone for the remainder of the concert. Enid-Siân Hughes, who is also a wonderful soprano, sang four songs.

The concert raised funds for the Salvation Army. The next concert will be at Bethlehem chapel life centre, Cefn Cribwr on Friday, June 17 at 7pm.

WI talk

TIRI LARILL Women's Institute's walking group, which has been in existence for about 15 years, recently went on an historical trail walk around Maesteg, their home town.

Their route started at what was believed to be the beginning of the horse drawn Dyffryn-Llynfyn railway, past the site of the iron works which at one time had



Ryan Wood (accompanist) with Enid-Siân Hughes of Maesteg Children's Choir.

four blast furnaces producing the iron, finishing at St Michael's and All Angels church, which had been built using stones from the old blast furnaces.

Gleemen triumph

MAESTEG Gleemen male voice choir recently performed in Dinas Powys Bowling Club, to a capacity audience.

The choir sang from a large repertoire, which consists of more than 90 songs, under the guidance of musical director Alun Hodges, assisted by accompanist Suzanne Hodges.

The choir's tenor soloist, Gerald Seymour, received a standing ovation for his rendition of 'My Way'. There was also a great deal of applause for baritone Ken Hicks, who sang the Bette Midler hit 'The Rose'.

Guest soloist, soprano Gemma Thomas, had been a finalist in the senior section of the Bridgend young singer of the year 2011.

Gemma gave a polished and varied performance of 'Little Horses', 'Can't say no', 'I feel pretty', 'Ave Maria' and 'Songbird'.

The choir is now rehearsing for its forthcoming performance in the massed choirs prior to the Wales-Barbarians rugby game in the Millennium stadium on Saturday, June 4.

Pupils praised

TYNRYHEOL Primary School, pupils Evan Davies and Josh Shepherd were selected to play for the football team representing Bridgend and District against the Vale of Glamorgan at St John's School, Porthcawl, last Tuesday.

Daniel Parker was selected to play for the Bridgend and District Schools squad in the basketball tournaments in Stoke and London next month.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR DUO

Whitsun at KPC

TEENAGERS looking for somewhere to hang out during the Whitsun half-term holidays will not find anywhere better than KPC Youth, the charity based in Pyle.

During the half-term holiday they will be open daily (except on Bank Holiday Monday) from May 31 until June 3.

Opening times will be from 12pm-3pm for the 8 to 12 year olds and until 5pm for those aged 13 and over.

All young people from Bridgend county are welcome to attend. The centre will also be open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 5.30pm-10pm for the over-13s. On Wednesday and Friday evenings, the centre will be open from 5.30pm-8pm for 8 to 12 year olds and 8pm-10pm for those aged 13 and over.

There is a large range of activities on offer to young people including fishing, a skate park, pool, various sports, IT, arts and crafts and dance. The centre is located next to Pil Primary School, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle.

For further details, call into the centre or contact Alison on 01656 749219 or email to: kpcyouth@hotmail.com

PACT meeting

THERE was another good turnout at last Thursday's PACT meeting in the Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill.

The main cause for concern among those present was the indiscriminate parking in Kenfig Hill, causing obstructions at road junctions in South View, near the Goricon site close to Evans Street, on zigzag lines, roads and pavements near to schools and on Bridge Street, and also across driveways in Baiden Avenue and North Avenue.

Other motoring issues causing concern were the increase in traffic expected in the lane outside Mynydd Cynffig Junior School, once the new houses were finished on the Goricon site; speeding in all areas; and the number of drivers seen driving while using mobile phones.

Coun Luke Ellis sent a letter to the meeting raising his concerns about the Neighbourhood Police Team shift changes,

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK!
Find us at facebook.com/gemnews

COMMUNITY NEWS from KENFIG HILL AND PYLE

by Richard Sims

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which meant that they are now patrolling the area alone instead of in pairs.

It was felt that they could more easily deal with a situation when it involved more than one offender if they worked in pairs, not only making the public feel safer but for their own safety also.

The priorities for the next PACT meeting on July 14, are lead thefts across both wards, parking near schools and traffic offences across both wards.

Wellbeing centre

ACTIVITIES being held by the Mental Health Matters Wales on June 1 in the Talbot Community Centre, Prince Road, Kenfig Hill: Writing with Val (expressive and fun) from 1pm-5pm; Valley and Vale arts and crafts workshop; and information with Karen, both from 2pm-3pm.

Sympathy

IT is with sadness that I report that Sheila Edwards, a popular member of the luncheon club in the Talbot, passed away suddenly last week.

Sheila, daughter of the late EJ (Ned) and Arianwen Edwards from Blaengarw, had lived in Tredarwen, Kenfig Hill since 2002.

She will be sadly missed by everyone who knew her and her thoughts are with her brother, Corrish, who now lives in Llanelli.

Community centre

LATEST news from the Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill is that the luncheon club will only be held on a Wednesday and Friday.

However, the good news is that, starting on June 19 (Fathers Day), 'Gina's Kitchen' will be serving Sunday lunches in the Talbot.

Who wants to build what and where?

Mr N Bullimore – Ingleside, 335A New Road, Porthcawl – Remove ash tree as it is damaging boundary wall (within Newton conservation area).
Aldi Stores Limited – Cheapside, Bridgend – Erection of hoarding at existing foodstore.
Mr Alun D Vokes – Plot adj, 19 Betws Road, Brynmynyn – New dwelling and garage (rebuild).
Mr Kevin Davies – 20 Park Place, Sarn – Prefabricated extension to side and rear.
Maesteg Town Council – Council Offices, Talbot Street, Maesteg – Place plaque of left hand side of building on front wall.
Mrs M Griffiths – 79 Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend – Change of use from single dwelling to two self-contained apartments with car parking for four cars.
Mr P Tidball – 10 Dan y Coed, Blackmill – Demolish existing garage/WC utility room and construct new garage/WC/utility room to rear.
Mrs M Johnson – 49 Llys Pentre, Broadlands – Conversion from an integral garage to a room.
Mr Miles – 31 St Marys Crescent, Maesteg – Conservatory to rear elevation.
Mr and Mrs Thomas – 10 Merganser Close, Porthcawl – Conservatory to rear, porch to front, extend existing front dormers to create a single dormer, new dormer to rear.
Mr Walter Pennell – Crud yr Awel, Coychurch – Proposed kitchen to replace conservatory.
Mr S Gillet – 14 Gwendoline Street, Blaengarw – Proposed dormer extension to rear elevation.
Mr O Dobson – 12 Heol Cambrensis, Pyle – Change of use of the ground floor dining room to a hair salon (part of domestic dwelling).
Mr and Mrs James – 7 Min yr Awel, Penyfai – UPVC conservatory to rear.
Telefonica 02 UK – Footway off New Road/Aldenhams Road, Porthcawl – 15m column with 6 no. internal antennae and a single ground cabinet.
Mr N Hopkins – 16 Brynmawr Place, Maesteg – Detached garage to rear garden.
Mr R Baker – 28 Maes yr Haf, North Cornelly – Proposed single storey extension.
Mr W G Denyer – 6 Bakers Way, Bryncethin – Single storey extension (granny annexe).

Local teenager wins a place at Rambert School

A local teenager has won a place at one of the country's most prestigious ballet schools.

Marla Ellis (16) competed against hundreds of applicants from all over the world to win the opportunity to study for a BA Hons in ballet and contemporary dance at the Rambert Ballet School.

Her mother Helen told The GEM: "She felt very honoured to win a place. Luckily for us, as the course is degree level Marla is able to apply for a student loan which has just been granted."

"We were very worried when Marla had to leave vocational school due to funding issues."

"It is extremely difficult to maintain the level of training needed to gain a pre-professional course and this would not have been possible without the terrific amount of enthusiasm and standard of teaching

by TIM CHAPMAN



given by Moya Vahey, who has never lost faith in Marla's ability to perform.

"Marla has also been very fortunate to win a scholarship to study at the Legat Foundations summer school in Croatia for three weeks in July which means that her fitness levels will be high – ready for the gruelling training regime at

LEFT: Marla Ellis preparing to dance at Sadler's Wells three years ago – now she is off to the Rambert School.

Rambert."

Marie Rambert founded the London-based Rambert School in 1920, and it remains one of the world's premier professional dance schools for training and choreographic invention. Ballet and contemporary dance are treated as equal studies.

• Three years ago, The GEM told the story of how Marla's parents Helen and Mark of Cowbridge, had managed to raise £25,000 in tuition fees to send Marla to the Arts Educational School in Tring.

Helen sold her vintage VW camper van and the people of Cowbridge supported the Ellis family with a fundraiser at the Duke of Wellington.

New Mayor takes helm at Porthcawl



The new Porthcawl mayor, Coun Barbara Stubbs, with her husband Bill.

PORThCAWL has a new mayor after Coun Mary Emmment-Lewis stepped down and was succeeded by the mayor-elect, Coun Barbara Stubbs.

Coun Stubbs' consort for her year of office will be her husband Bill.

The new Deputy Mayor will be Coun Alana Davies.

In her farewell address, Coun Emmment-Lewis looked back on a "roller-coaster year" and said she had experienced sadness, pride, laughter, joy, frustration and satisfaction.

She said that the sadness had come following the death of fellow councillor Clive Hare, but she had then felt proud to be asked to deliver the eulogy at his funeral.

Her joy had come from attending local

events in her official capacity, too numerous to mention, and she thanked the Mayor of Bridgend County Borough, Coun Colin Teesdale and his wife Gloria, who become good friends as a result.

The frustration, it turned out, came in the form of a side-swipe at some fellow councillors, who failed to support events put on by the town council.

Coun Emmment-Lewis said that she had intended to use her year in office to show the public what a diverse and dedicated community existed in Porthcawl, and she thanked the media, singling out Keith E Morgan, who has chronicled a number in *The GEM*.

She thanked John Berry and the Civic Fund committee, and also the Porthcawl Lions and other organisations who held coffee mornings



The retiring mayor, Coun Mary Emmment-Lewis, with consort Bob Lewis.

PHOTOGRAPHS by KEITH E MORGAN



New Mayor Barbara Stubbs (standing) with her deputy Alana Davies.

to raise cash for the fund.

She noted that one evening alone at the Hi-Tide had raised more than £1,000!

Her charities for the year were Tenovus, LATCH, Porthcawl Stroke Club, Guide Dogs for the Blind, the RNLI and the YMCA.

She thanked her "long-suffering fami-

ly" and her consort Bob for their support, and said she was looking forward to "me time" with her new grandchild.

She told fellow councillors: "It has been my honour and privilege to have been your mayor, and I thank you for your confidence, your trust in me, and your friendship."

Establishing a rural produce network in the Bridgend area

Reach, the rural development programme for Bridgend, held a successful 'Meet the Producer' event earlier this month at Bridgend Recreation Centre, when 15 local food and drink producers showcased their products to 25 buyers, including wholesalers, retailers and local hospitality providers.

Reach also launched their local food directory www.reach4food.com (hard copies available) at the event.

The directory, which features details of local food producers, retailers and hospitality providers is aimed at helping to establish a comprehensive local food network.

David Roderick, rural food coordinator for reach commented: "We are really pleased with the levels of interest shown at this event."

It proved the perfect opportunity for businesses in Bridgend to

meet with local food and drink providers passionate about their great tasting products and establish trading contacts.

"All sections of the food supply chain have a part to play in communicating with each other to raise the profile of the superb, and in many cases award winning, local foods available and help build a local food culture the area can be proud of."

Retailers and hospitality providers are now able to find out what produce is available in the area and contact the suppliers.

Mr Roderick added: "We are encouraging cooperation and dialogue between producers and retailers to create a network that will help the local economy and in particular the tourism sector by providing a visitor experience that will include great tasting local food."

"We are hoping this network will continue to grow and establish south Wales as a destination with a strong food identity."

To help local pubs, restaurants and hotels achieve this aim Reach

has produced a skills DVD for chefs, demonstrating how to cook consistently high quality dishes using local ingredients.

Reach is Bridgend's Rural Development Programme, which operates under the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013.

The programme is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development with match funding by the Welsh Government and Bridgend County Borough Council.

Rural produce is part of a wider reach initiative to see increased production, processing, marketing and consumption of local food to create thriving local food economies.

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Madeleine Moon MP being welcomed to the Rees Centre, Kenfig Hill, by Maizie Elfin, co-ordinator, Face2Face, Bridgend.

MP THANKS THOSE WHO BECOME 'BEFRIENDERS'

BRIDGEND MP

Madeleine Moon visited the Rees Centre in Kenfig Hill recently to present certificates to six parent volunteers who had successfully completed a Face2Face foundation training course.

Unfortunately, only four of the volunteers were able to attend the ceremony: Gareth Clode, Heather Webb, Valerie Williams, Karen Parsons.

Apologies were received from Anita Davies and Fran Wright.

Scope Cymru is the Welsh arm of Scope, which offers services in Wales across the age range for parents, disabled adults and children, to enable their aspirations to be fulfilled in the same way as their non-disabled peers.

Madeleine Moon said: "It is wonderful to see more volunteers receiving their certificates and becoming befrienders to help other parents in the com-

munity.

"Face2Face offers a unique one-to-one befriending service for parents discovering their child is disabled."

"The befrienders themselves are mothers or fathers of a disabled child, and can offer much needed support and advice when coping with a new diagnosis."

"Befrienders also help with information on a range of disability services and issues for parents trying to cope in the early days."

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Town council wants to take control of land near cemetery

BARRY Town councillors have passed a motion calling on the Vale Council, as owners of land to the east of Cemetery Road, to begin discussions which they hope will lead to them taking responsibility for it.

At the Town Council's annual meeting on May 10, councillors considered a motion submitted by Couns Stuart Egan and Theo Stenstrom.

Councillors pointed out that the Town Council had previously indicated that it would be inappropriate for either of the open spaces bisected by Cemetery Road to be used for housing or other related purposes.

They also noted that if the site to the east of Cemetery Road was allocated within the Local Development Plan for future cemetery use, it would enable the council to continue to provide an essential service to the local community, as well as helping to maintain the ambience and serenity of the cemetery access road.

Councillors were reminded that the council had previously submitted outline proposals for maintaining the former allotment land located to the east of Cemetery Road for the benefit of the local community, in ways which would be compatible with the adjacent cemetery, thereby conserving the open space for the quiet enjoyment of future generations.

generations.

The Town Council unanimously approved Coun Egan and Councillor Stenstrom's motion, calling upon the Vale Council, as the owners of the land located to the east of Cemetery Road, to commence meaningful discussions as a matter of urgency concerning the site, so the Town Council could take responsibility for maintaining it.

Councillors understand this type of arrangement is possible via the provisions of the Unitary Council's Charter with Town and Community Councils within the Vale, as well as other arrangements which could be agreed between the two councils.

A Vale Council spokesman said: "We are considering a letter which has been received from Barry Town Council."

Mixed results for Heritage Coast in Good Beach Guide

BEACHES along the Heritage Coast have, in the main, fared well in the latest edition of the Good Beach Guide, launched this week by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS).

Portcawl will be pleased, as all three beaches tested, Rest Bay, Sandy Bay, and Trecco Bay have all retained the recommended status awarded the previous year.

Along the Heritage Coast, beaches that have retained their recommended status are at Cold Knap and Whitmore Bay.

The latter, of course, is now much more famous, courtesy of the TV series *Gavin and Stacey*.

Another recommended beach is at Southerndown, which has been upgraded from its status the previous year, where it gained a basis pass mark.

The beach at Fontygary has also been given recommended status.

However, some beaches in the Vale

have slipped this year. Jackson's Bay has fallen from recommended to a basis pass, while Barry's Watch House Bay has dropped from a basis pass to a fail.

Ogmore Central and Llantwit Major have both stayed the same, recording a basis pass this year and last, while Ogmore West, which failed last year, has failed again this year.

A total of 92 Welsh beaches have been recommended as having excellent bathing water quality.

Out of the 154 beaches that were sampled, 11 beaches have failed. The report says:

"These beaches fail to meet even the basic standards set 35 years ago in European law."

"They present a potential health hazard for beachgoers, who may face unacceptable levels of bacteria and viruses in the sea water."

MCS says this is a real cause for concern.

The head of visible services at the Vale Council, Miles Punter, said: "On the whole, the water quality results for Vale beaches are encouraging."

"It is, however, disappointing that, despite significant investment by Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water over a number of years, a few of our coastal areas have failed to reach a suitable standard."

"We will continue to work with Dwr Cymru / Welsh Water, Keep Wales Tidy and the Environment Agency to promote higher standards of water quality throughout the entire coastline of the Vale of Glamorgan."

Charity dog show

A **CHARITY** dog show will be held on June 18 at Bryncae Community Centre, Llanharan (judging 2pm).

It will raise money for Bridgend Deaf (Sports and Social Club), Bridgend. Classes for pedigree dogs and cross breeds and two especially for children.

Prizes, rosettes, raffle, refreshments. All friendly dogs and their people welcome.

Further details from dogshows4u@aol.com or 01443 225399.

Summer trip
LLANTWIT Major Horticultural Society is running a trip to Savill Gardens, Windsor, on Sunday, June 26.

The coach leaves from the car park behind Llantwit Rugby Club at 7.30am, £24 per person includes entry to garden. Everyone welcome.

Contact Elizabeth Rees on 01446 750387 for more information.

Plans to use first batch of Barry regeneration cash

THE first £300,000 of the £9 million Barry regeneration cash is to be spent, in the main, on Vale Council officer time to project manage a number of schemes.

The details were revealed in a recent report to the Vale Council cabinet. It follows the March 2010 Assembly decision to designate Barry as a 'Regeneration Area' and grant £9 million to bring together partners and contribute to investment in the town.

The £300,000 has been earmarked for a series of projects:

- Barry Island Station's replacement footbridge will receive £100,000 to match fund application for funding from the Department for Transport's 'Access for All Mid-Tier Programme'.

The deadline for returning completed applications is May 27.

Ash cloud disrupts flights

THE ash cloud released by the eruption of a volcano in Iceland led to the cancellation of some flights in and out of Cardiff Airport on Tuesday (May 24).

All but one concerned flights to Scotland. An Eastern Airlines flight to Aberdeen, due in at 6.15pm for a 6.40pm departure, failed to arrive.

Also, two Flybe flights, one to Glasgow and one to Edinburgh, were cancelled.

However, fears that the ash cloud might be spreading were exacerbated when the Flybe flight to Paris was also cancelled.

CASTLELAND COMMUNITY volunteers at Barry drop-in centre have organised activities for half term.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 2pm until 4pm - there is a range of sports activities (football, rugby, cricket) at the multi-court area, Belvedere Crescent.

On Wednesday (10am until 2pm) - there is an open day and arts and crafts at Castleland Community Centre, plus information on DIC Theatre & Arts Group. Tel: 01446 411111 or 01446 403549 for full details.

by **PHILIP IRWIN**

with a decision expected by September 5, 2011.

- The Innovation Quarter will receive £40,000 to fund feasibility and outline design work to "develop the interface" between the land held by the Waterfront Consortium and Vale Council land at the Innovation Quarter.

- The Vale Heritage Centre will get £10,000 to fund the preparation of a feasibility report.

A number of other projects require officer time to project manage different schemes.

- A total of £60,000 is required to project manage a number of major physical regeneration projects including, the Innovation Quarter, Barry Steam Railway Project, Central Station Park and Ride and

Barry Island Action Plan.

- The Economic Development Unit needs £24,000 to "assist in the development, delivery and evaluation of physical regeneration projects and programmes associated with the Welsh Assembly Government Barry Regeneration Area programme".

- The Landscape Design Service is to use £35,000 to develop and deliver the public realm, public open space and public art elements of major physical regeneration projects including, Barry Town Centre, Innovation Quarter, Barry Island Action Plan and Castleland Renewal Area.

The report notes that £31,000 of the £300,000 remains unallocated, and this will be held in abeyance as a contingency.

LOCAL SCHOOL TRANSPORT: all change on the buses

FOLLOWING discussions with the bus operator Veolia Transport Cymru, the Vale Council says it has arranged for school buses operated by Veolia to be re-allocated to other bus companies.

The only exception is Service S9 which runs from Barry to St Cyres School in Penarth, which will continue to be operated by Veolia until Friday, June 24.

Timetables and routes in the majority of cases remain the same although where practical there may be some amalgamation of services. Schools affected have

been notified.

Coun Jeffery James, cabinet member for planning and transportation, said: "While the Vale Council had hoped that Veolia would have continued operating these school buses until June 24, recent reliability issues have left the council with no option other than to find alternative bus operators to fill the gap during difficult times."

"This is all the more important as pupils and schools have started the examination period. I am confident that the council has reacted quickly and efficiently to this problem with no resultant disruption to pupils."

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VALE MP's VIEWPOINT

Heavy cost of MoD's failures at St Athan

The Defence Technical College proposed for St Athan made the news once again last week.

ITV Wales interviewed a senior manager from the former Metrix consortium, who was scathing about how the MoD handled the project over the last six years.

The manager, Lawrence Lewis, talked of 'endemic failures' in the MoD's culture, which led to delay after delay – meaning the project went billions over budget.

The plan was initially formed in 2005 and the delays amounted to more than three years. Based on the original start date, the college would have been up and running two years ago.

Mr Lewis stated that the MoD did not adapt to changing technology; that programmes aimed to last decades were taken by short-term management appointments.

All in all, his biting comments confirm some of the worries expressed to me when the Metrix plan was cancelled last year.

The Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox says that he has had to get to grips with the department that was



Vale MP Alun Cairns reports to GEM readers

clearly mismanaged; the ultimate demonstration came when he showed that cancelling a contract for an aircraft carrier that hadn't been built would be more expensive than allowing it to go ahead!

It is important to confirm, however, that the St Athan site remains in the running for Defence Technical Training. I have had several meetings with Liam Fox to lobby and champion the case for the RAF base.

He tells me that they are currently crunching the numbers to rationalise 11 training schools on nine different sites, currently under three com-

mands, to confirm where best training can be conducted.

There was a plan to highlight the shortlist by March 31, which unfortunately wasn't possible.

I have asked for another meeting with the Secretary of State to clarify the date when the next formal announcement will be made.

I believe that the suitability of the site could mean savings to the MoD and enhanced training.

It is important to recognise that significant work has already been done and more is continuing. A large amount of technical training takes place at St Athan and I was delighted to open the new Headquarters Building ('Lancaster') at No 4 School of Technical Training on the site some weeks ago.

I also learnt about the level of training needed to produce specialist engineers of the highest calibre, and met the trainees who were working on the design and repairs of essential vehicles.

It was clear from the visit that there is significant activity on the site which is not necessarily recognised by the wider community.

My aim is to ensure that the activity grows.

Colcot school pupils get more sporty!

THE pupils at Colcot Primary School have enjoyed a very sporty week.

The school rugby team had a successful and enjoyable time at the 'Future Blues' rugby tournament. Staff and parents praised the team for their efforts on the field of play and also for their sportsmanship.

The children were thrilled with the opportunity to play at the Arms Park and to take part in an exciting tournament.

The summer schedule of after school clubs started this week with athletics, cricket and rounders on the menu for the junior children.

The clubs make use of the playing fields and offer a large number of children the opportunity to develop and improve

their sporting skills.

The school will be offering another after school club next week following free taster sessions at school.

Rob Copeland will be taking karate sessions every Tuesday. This privately-run club will add to the opportunities available to the children.

Mike Fowler continues to run his successful after school football club at the school every Monday evening. Mike will also be working with the children during their forthcoming open morning on June 14.

Everyone is welcome at the open morning between 9.30am and 11.30am to see the variety of different opportunities available at the school.

Jury set to consider the verdict in murder trial

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

AS The GEM went to press yesterday (Wednesday) the jury at Cardiff Crown Court trying a Penarth mother, who is accused of murdering her 11-year-old autistic son by strangling him with a belt, were due to retire to consider their verdict.

Yvonne Freaney, 49, has denied the charge of murder but admitted manslaughter on the grounds of diminished responsibility.

The prosecution did not accept this plea. The trial began on

May 9 and Freaney herself was not called to give evidence.

Police found Freaney and her son's body in the Sky Plaza Hotel, Rhose, one year ago.

She told them "I killed him about 36 hours ago. I strangled him. I used my belt over there by the bed."

She said he was severely autistic but would now be happy in heaven.

Freaney was described by prosecutor Gregg Taylor QC as a devoted mother.

Freaney, the jury was also told, had endured a lengthy history of domestic abuse and self harm and lived in "dirty and cluttered" conditions.

Mr Taylor claimed that the prosecution contention was that "this is a straightforward case of murder, and that will be the correct verdict."

COMMONS MOVE

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has been elected by his colleagues to the Commons Public Administration Committee.

He commented: "I am sorry to select for considering the quality and standards of administration in the Civil Service and scrutinises reports of the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman. Mr Cairns was previously a member of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee and although the mandate is broader, it is equally important to the Vale and to Wales."

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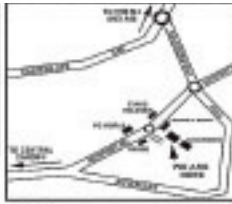
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Report points to 'shocking' figures DRINK BLAMED FOR RISE IN CRIMES OF VIOLENCE IN VALE

by PHILIP IRWIN

A shock report links alcohol to a 13.6 per cent rise in violent crime in the Vale – and it also reveals an alarming 46.2 per cent rise in serious sexual offences.

The report was presented to the Vale Council yesterday (Wednesday) by the office of the director of legal, public protection and housing services.

On serious violence, it says that the target was a 5 per cent reduction, but in fact there was a 13.6 per cent increase.

The report lays the blame for this increase squarely on drinking.

It says: "A large number of alcohol-related incidents have occurred. There still seems to be a strong link between alcohol consumption and our most serious incidents of violence."

It says that the Safer Vale Partnership recently commissioned Vibe experience to conduct a survey to establish youth attitudes towards drugs, including alcohol.

This information, says the report, along with information from a recent Safer Vale survey will help the Partnership target resources and services to tackle alcohol-related crime, especially alcohol-related violence.

The second missed target related to serious sexual offences:

The target of a 28 per cent reduction over two years was missed, with the figures in fact showing

ing a startling 46.2 per cent increase. The report explains this shocking figure by saying a number of "historic" cases have come to light, resulting in the figures climbing beyond the target.

The report goes on to say: "In the majority of cases the suspect is known to the victim and is usually a family member, acquaintance or friend."

The clear inference is that a number of offenders who thought they had 'got away with' past crimes have now been brought to justice.

The report says that the domestic abuse co-ordinator will be working with agencies across the Vale and Cardiff to raise the profile of reporting sexual violence, and to make people aware of the support available.

OVERALL, CRIME FALLS

The statistics also reveal that over the year 2010-2011, crime overall fell by 5.1 per cent compared to 2009/2010 and there were areas where targets have been reached or exceeded.

These include:

- Domestic violence: Target 2.5 per cent reduction in repeat victims, target achieved, 6 per cent reduction

The report says that the domestic abuse co-ordinator, along with relevant agencies, has "done an excellent job of raising awareness of domestic

abuse within the Vale".

However, actual reported incidents of domestic abuse have still increased by 25 per cent.

The report argues that this is a sign that victims are more confident in reporting such incidents, and says that the response by police and other agencies is succeeding in reducing the number of repeat incidents.

- Serious acquisitive crime, where the target was 10 per cent, achieved a reduction of 15.1 per cent. However, the report says that there has been an increase in domestic burglary offences, 14.4 per cent compared to 2009/10.

It says the increase in burglary occurred in the latter part of 2010 and the early part of 2011, and that five wards in Barry were the locations of approximately 40 per cent of all dwelling burglaries in the Vale.

The majority of offenders, when crimes were detected, were males. Set against these increases, however, were large decreases in the amount of vehicle crime in the Vale.

Theft of motor vehicles reduced by 15.4 per cent and theft from motor vehicles fell by 28.8 per cent compared to 2009/10.

Another area of the Safer Vale Partnership's

work concerned smoke alarms, where there was a target of reducing the number of properties without smoke alarms by 20 per cent. This target was missed, and in fact there was a 45.8 per cent increase.

The report says: "This is quite shocking when we take into account the fact that there was a 36 per cent increase in the number of alarms installed in 2009-10 compared to 2008-09."

The report says that previously the focus of the Fire Service was to increase the number of installations across the Vale and south Wales as a whole.

However evidence suggests that approximately three quarters of fire-related deaths and injuries involve people known to agencies associated with the local authority and Community Safety Partnership.

It says that focus is now shifting to the prioritising of high risk groups known to partnership agencies.

It is anticipated that during 2011-12, Fire stations in the Vale will install approximately 2,520 smoke alarms.

This is a reduction of 45 per cent in terms of the number fitted but it is intended to work with the Castletand Renewal Area to target services in that area.

CCTV assists with two Barry arrests

CCTV operated by the Safer Vale Partnership, assisted with two arrests in the week ending May 22.

It contacted the police on 33 occasions, with two arrests made at Holton Road, Barry. The first involved theft on May 19, and the second criminal damage on May 20.

Residents say 'Vale is a safe place to live'



Vale residents Vince Price and Angela Burrows, winners of the prize draw, are pictured with Coun Paul Church at the new Station 20 community room at Barry Fire Station.

VALE residents had the chance to have their say on crime and disorder in the recent Safer Vale survey – which also offered a prize draw.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said that 717 residents responded to the survey, an

impressive return of more than 21 per cent.

"Respondents to the survey feel that the Vale is a desirable place, with 84 per cent stating that they feel the Vale is a safe place to live.

"Additionally, 61 per cent of respondents agree that police in the Vale are successful in tackling crime."



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'STRANGER DANGER!' WARNING AFTER MAN ATTEMPTS TO ABDUCT THREE YOUNG GIRLS

WARNINGS have been issued to parents throughout Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan, after an incident in which an attempt was made to abduct three young girls.

Police are investigating the incident, which took place last week in Talbot Green.

The girls, aged eight and ten years old were walking in Ely Valley Road at about 4pm on Monday, May 16, when a man called to them from a silver coloured car and asked if they wanted a lift.

They refused and the car, with tinted windows, then drove off.

Talbot Green Neighbourhood Policing Sergeant Jeff Jones said that this was a distressing incident for the three young girls, and they are hoping that anyone who witnessed the incident will come forward.

He added: "We also ask anyone with information about the identity of this man to contact the police."

Police schools liaison

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

officers have been in touch with schools in the area and police have increased high visibility patrols in the neighbourhood at the start and end of the school day to help reassure both parents and children.

Police are reinforcing the "stranger danger" message by urging local youngsters to be careful when out playing, and to remind them to tell their parents or guardians where they were going.

Children are being told not to talk to strangers and to stay with their friends.

News of the attempted abduction has shocked parents throughout the area. One mother, who lives in the Aberthyn/Ystradowen area and whose child goes to Y Bont Faen in Cowbridge, said that she was very worried.

"The children have been warned at school about this incident, but I would never let my daughter out alone. It's far too worrying," she commented.

Warnings have gone

out from both the Vale and Bridgend education authorities.

A spokesman for the Vale Council said that they had asked all schools to remind staff and pupils to be vigilant at all times.

A spokesman for Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) said that the education authority had notified all schools of the incident.

Headteachers have then decided whether to take any further action. Some schools, although not all, have sent either letters or text messages to parents.

Rumours abounded of sightings of the silver car near schools throughout a wide area.

One mother of a child in a Vale school said that the parents' grapevine was aware of incidents in both Bridgend and Margam.

However, South Wales Police issued a statement on this subject on Tuesday, May 24.

It said: "A number of calls have been received

by police officers reporting other similar suspicious incidents.

"While these calls have been well intentioned, a number of them have already been fully investigated and have been unfounded."

Detective Inspector Andy Jones said: "We are grateful to the public for their vigilance and we will investigate every incident that is reported to us."

"However, we ask that callers are certain of the events before they contact us, and give us as much information as possible."

Superintendent Dawn Hubbard said: "There have been a number of rumours circulating about abductions and attempted abductions in the area, as well as in Bridgend and Port Talbot."

"I want to reassure the public and parents and children in particular that no such incidents have taken place."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt Jeff Jones at Talbot Green police station on the Crimestoppers number 0800 555 111.



ABOVE: Church officials (left to right Hadyn Burgess (church treasurer), Sheila Thursby (church secretary), Jack Fairweather MBE, Fay Fairweather and Rev. Duncan Ballantyne (church minister)

HOLY TRINITY PLAQUE UNVEILED AT BARRY



Jack Fairweather unveils the plaque at Holy Trinity church.

AS previously reported, on May 14 at Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, Barry, long-serving member Jack Fairweather, MBE, unveiled the plaque to officially open the new building.

This was done in the presence of more than 100 friends of the church, including Church Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev Iain Hodgins, Moderator of the Association, Rev Tom Phillips and local dignitaries.

These included AOM Jane Hutt, Coun Gordon Kemp and his wife, Coun Kathryn Kemp, Mayor of the Vale, Coun Colin Osborne and the Mayoress, Mayor of Barry Town Council, Coun Bronwen Brooks and consort Mrs Kandi Elmore.

School's PE gold star!

GWENFO Church-in-Wales Primary School has received a gold star after its work in PE received a glowing report.

Sport Wales and the Association for Physical Education are championing schools which recognise the importance of PE.

All schools can apply for ActiveMarc Cymru and this year, 29 schools from across Wales have sailed through.

Gwenfo was congratulated by Alun Cairns MP, who said: "Active Marc Cymru recognises that the school is committed to developing and delivering high quality physical education. Congratulations once again, and best wishes for the continued success of the school."

The chair of Sport Wales, Professor Laura McAllister, explained: "We believe that schools play an essential role in building a Wales in which children are hooked on sport for life."

"It is important that young people have positive early experiences of sport and physical activity that build a foundation for lifelong involvement in sport. This award recognises those schools that are giving our children an excellent start."

Roadworks

Thompson Street, Barry and A 4050 Port Road East, Barry – temporary traffic control.

CHARITY BALL

THE Miss Wales finalists will be present at the Miss and Mister Wales charity ball in aid of the Joshua Foundation at the Mercure Holland House Hotel in Cardiff on July 1, the night before the Miss Wales 2011 final.

Hosted by the reigning Miss Wales, Courtenay Hamilton, the black tie ball will include a drinks reception, three-course meal and entertainment.

Tickets and further information from www.miss-wales.co.uk

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* Offer expires on the 31st August

Bonvilston concert supports the Vale's Eisteddfod effort



Photographs by IAN DIXON
THE Vale-wide fundraising campaign to support the 2012 National Eisteddfod in Llandow was boosted recently by a concert in Bonvilston Reading Room.

The Cantorian Choir was in fine voice and a packed hall enjoyed both the ensemble and solo pieces.

*RIGHT and BELOW RIGHT:
Male and female members of the choir.*



PTA's CURRY NIGHT IS ENJOYED BY ALL



THE PTA at Peterston-super-Ely school recently held a fundraising curry and ice cream supper at the community hall.

It was followed by an auction, raffle and disco.

The funds raised will go towards outdoor facilities for reception and nursery pupils.

(Photographs by IAN DIXON)



SEARCH IS ON FOR VALE'S TOP GARDENERS

The Vale of Glamorgan Council has launched its annual search for the area's top gardeners.

The Barry, Penarth and Villages in Bloom competitions involve residents and businesses across the Vale, with organisers selecting overall Vale in Bloom winners in best front garden and best commercial classes.

The Barry and Penarth competition will cover six classes of best front garden, most beautiful hanging basket display, best disabled gardener's entry, best children's entry (under 16), best residential home/sheltered accommodation and best commercial entry (including schools, but with a slightly different judging criteria).

In the Villages in Bloom competitions, there will be two classes, best front garden and best commercial entry.

The competitions are free to enter, with cash prizes and plaques or certificates. Some winners can also receive the following trophies:

Front garden: Penarth's best entry in the seafront conservation area receives the Robert and Joan Ernest Trophy.

Hanging basket display: Barry winner (Peter May Memorial Trophy).

Disabled gardener: Barry winner (Tony Gatt Memorial Cup).

Children: Penarth winner (David Morgan Trophy) and Barry winner (Cabot Trophy).

The only requirement for entry is that displays must be visible from the road or footpath to the front of the property.



Application forms can be obtained from council offices in Barry (Civic and Dock), Wenvoe (The Alps) and local libraries, by telephoning 01446 700111 and on the council website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

The closing date for entries is Friday, 1st July, 2011.



Be a winner in the Vale's annual gardening competition

Competition Classes

• Barry and Penarth

1. Best Front Garden
2. Most Beautiful Hanging Basket Display
3. Best Disabled Gardener's Entry
4. Best Children's Entry
5. Best Residential Home/Sheltered Accommodation
6. Best Commercial Entry

• Villages

1. Best Front Garden
2. Best Commercial Entry
3. Most Beautiful Hanging Basket Display

Entry Form

Name

Full Address

Post Code Telephone No.

Classes

Please send completed form to:
Vale in Bloom, The Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA

- Entries must be clearly visible from the road or footpath to the front of the property.
- Prizes will be awarded for the first, second and third placed entrants in each class, as the judges deem appropriate. Plaques or certificates will be awarded to prize winners in all classes. Cash prizes will be awarded for non-commercial classes only. Commercial classes can allocate their prize to a charity of their choice.
- Children entering Class 4 must be under 16.
- Entrants who win a class for three consecutive years will not be allowed to enter the following year.
- Classes for the "Vale in Bloom Competition" will be – Best Front Garden and Best Commercial Entry
- Judging will take place during the two weeks commencing Monday, 1st August, 2011.
- Judges decision will be final in all classes.
- Closing date for entries will be on Friday, 1st July, 2011.



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Students make a film about life

STUDENTS at Barry College have produced a film on young people's life choices, as part of 'Working as a Team' for BTEC workskills. It focuses on issues such as education, bullying, drugs and alcohol, as well as the impact of domestic violence. Pictured are Fast Forward Directions learners with (front) Barry College director of learning Emil Evans, assistant principal curriculum John Hilton, learning assistant Sarah Grant, general education lecturer Dawn Latham, in-class support worker Sunray Heap, learning zone assistant Debbie Trezise, and head of department, general education, Martin Gordon.

Property Wanted

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Mr Andrew Fenton 01446 709945 or 07847 888 750
Mr Simon Thomas 01446 791963 or 07847 888 740



Chris Davies
sales@chris-davies.co.uk

GOLF DAY RAISED £4,500 FOR CHARITY

THE annual NFU Mutual Insurance Charity golf day, organised by local businessmen David Harris and Julian Kelly, was held last Friday at the Grove Golf Club, near Porthcawl.

More than 100 golfers of variable ability, together with the support of many local businesses, raised more than £4,500 in support of the Ed Evans Foundation.

Results from the Ed Evans

Charity Golf Day
Winning team – NFU Southport agency with 106 points, comprising Neil Kenyon, David Shove, Andy Hilditch and James Skelton; runners-up – Laleston Lads team with 105 points, comprising Julian Kelly, Marc O'Sullivan, Gareth Jones and Paul Hodgkiss.

Third team – Big Foot Creative with 103 points, comprising Matthew Rees, Ray Murray, Joe Muir and Gareth Rees.

Best endeavour – The Leinster supporters team

with 43 points, Eddie, Tony and Paddy Collins with Aubrey Thomas.

Men's individual – Andy Hilditch with 41 points.

Men's individual runner-up – Marc O'Sullivan with 36 points.

Ladies individual – Sarah Morris with 31 points.

Ladies individual runner-up – Marianne Allan with 28 points.

Men's longest drive – Matthew Rees.

Ladies longest drive – Dr Gail Price.

Nearest the pin 4th hole – sponsored by The Red Fox, Penlyne – Darrell Hammond.

Nearest the pin 7th hole – sponsored by The Grove Golf Club – Hadyn Painter.

Nearest the pin 12th hole – sponsored by The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge – Marc O'Sullivan.

Nearest the pin 18th hole – sponsored by Huddarts Restaurant, Cowbridge – Paul Davy.

Correctly guessing the number of balls that would be lost (247) – Jim Hayes.

TMCc



David Harris presenting the cheque to Mrs Sue Evans, mother of Ed Evans.



Clive Thomas collects the best endeavour prize.

VALE BRIDGE CLUB WINS A £2,613 LOTTERY GRANT

VALE of Glamorgan Bridge Club held a celebration on Monday at Cowbridge Rugby Club, to mark a Big Lottery Awards For All grant of £2,613 to purchase computer 'Bridgemate' equipment. Jane Hutt AM handed over the cheque.

The club was formed in 1987 at the Cowbridge Leisure Centre. The committee included myself as chairman, Dennis Smith as vice chairman, Mrs Marjorie Smith as treasurer and Pat Swain as secretary, who are all present members, and now joined by Graham Norris as tournament director and Barbara Easterbrook and Margaret Bancroft as committee officers.

In 1997, we moved to the



Brian Swain and his wife Pat with Jane Hutt AM.

British Legion Club and changed the name to Vale of Glamorgan Club. In 2005, the British Legion Club closed down and we temporarily moved to the Scouts Hall, but because of difficulties experienced at the premises, we were fortunate to change to the Cowbridge Rugby Club premises where we have spent many happy

years up to the present time. It is intended that the new equipment now purchased will enable us to join other bridge clubs in offering immediate scoring of bridge events electronically at the end of each session, and also hopefully to recruit new members.

BRIAN SWAIN

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HOLM ISLANDS
TUESDAY JUNE 7 Leave 1.30pm back 8pm
FRIDAY JUNE 10 Leave 11am back 5.15pm
Steam round the 'Channel Islands' of Sleep Holm & Flat Holm - see the towering cliffs - seabirds & lighthouse £23 SC £21 Jun 10 - You also enjoy time in Clevedon.

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 8 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
SATURDAY JUNE 11 Leave 11.45am back 9pm
WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 8pm
SATURDAY JUNE 18 Leave 11am back 8pm
SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm
Visit the seaside at Ilfracombe - Glorious Devon £31
Seniors only £29 on weekdays! On June 8 & 18 you can also enjoy a cruise exploring the National Trust Coast of Exmoor £33 *June 11 Return by coach from Clevedon

STEAM RAILWAY & MINEHEAD
WEDNESDAY JUNE 8 Leave 10am back 8.45pm
Cruise to visit Minehead and then join the West Somerset Railway for a 20 mile trip through beautiful countryside and 9 charming country stations. £39

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RIVERS & ISLANDS EXPLORER
FRIDAY JUNE 10 Leave 11am back 5.15pm
Cruise the River Severn and Bridges and round the Holm Islands - Flat Holm and Sleep Holm £25 SC £23
PORTRICAWL & HERITAGE COAST
Children Travel Free!

SUNDAY JUNE 12 Leave 1.15pm back 7pm
Visit Portcawl £19 SC £17 or stay aboard for a cruise along the Glamorgan Heritage Coastline £21 SC £19
*One free ticket with every adult ticket purchased
MINEHEAD & PORLOCK BAY
MONDAY JUNE 13 Leave 2.15pm back 7pm
Cruise to charming West Somerset & visit Minehead £25.95 SC £23.95 Or enjoy the full cruise to visit the beautiful West Somerset Coast & Porlock Bay £27.95 SC £25.95

L & B RAILWAY & Visit LYNNMOUTH
WEDNESDAY JUNE 15 Leave 10am back 8pm
SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm
SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 8pm
Cruise to Ilfracombe and visit Lynmouth, the Switzerland of England, before enjoying a trip on the Lynton & Barnstaple narrow gauge railway in North Devon inclusive fare £41

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Visit LUNDY ISLAND
Annual Church Service on Lundy
SUNDAY JUNE 19 Leave 9.30am back 9.15pm
SUNDAY JULY 3 Leave 9.30am back 8pm
Visit Lundy Island - explore this enchanting National Trust Island with spectacular views - seabirds - Church of St. Helena & Marisco Tavern - inclusive fare £41

FIREWORKS SHOWBOAT
SATURDAY JULY 9 Leave 3.30pm back 10.30pm
Cruise the Holm Islands and see Fireworks as the band entertain you! £25 Groups of 6 or more only £22.50

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LOCAL STREET DANCE TEAMS SHINE IN WELSH SCHOOLS COMPETITION

DANCERS from four of the Vale secondary schools competed in the UDO Welsh Inter High School street dance competition on May 14 at Newport Leisure Centre against schools from across Wales.

The youngsters aged between 11-18 years competed in duos and team divisions before a judging panel of professional dancers and choreographers.

The event was supported by the Sports Council of Wales 5x60 initiative which aims to get teenagers taking regular exercise each week.

Local schools taking part were Bryn Hafren, St Richard Gwyn, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Cowbridge.

The duo section had entries from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg with Sophia Hathaway and Millie Charles Davies, Elysia Bobbett and partner Kerys Jenkins.

St Richard Gwyn was represented by Christina Tsentis and Frankie McGill, Keera Gravett and Olivia Miller and Callum Osborne and Chloe Parris took second place in the final with their outstanding duo.

Cowbridge, Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg and Bryn Hafren had teams perform to a very high standard in the junior division but only the top five were chosen to compete at the national finals later on this year in Blackpool – two Vale schools were successful in qualifying.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg's 'Composure' comprised year-7, 8 and 9 students; Chloe Staples, Kimberley Williams, Tesni Sewell, Elysia Bobbett, Chenice Lincoln, Evie Carter, Kerys Jenkins, Lowri Clarke, Millie Charles Davies and Sophia Hathaway.

This piece choreographed by their 5x60 dance tutor Sophie Squires and dance leader Samantha Owens, achieved fifth place.

Bryn Hafren 'Dolls' had the following students perform from year-7, 8 and 9 – Chloe Dawkins, Tillie Carter, Leah Shepperd, Rachel



Adrenaline Dance Crew, Bryn Hafren



'Composure', Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg.



Hazelton, Mollie Snell, Shannon Close, Chloe Davies, Kelsey Eady, Elizabeth Scott, Caitlyn Organ, Rebecca Weighell and Courtney Howells.

This unique dance piece choreographed by their 5x60 dance tutor Emma Mallam and dance leader Ellie Carter, achieved second place.

The senior division was represented by St Richard Gwyn High School and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive.

St Richard Gwyn were unlucky to miss out on the national finals by coming sixth in the competition with their dance piece 'Recess' choreographed by Emma Mallam and dance leader Yamin Harcourt.

Dancers Keera Gravett, Olivia Miller, Olivia Harris, Olivia McCormack, Callum Osborne, Chloe Parris, Frankie McGill, Christina Tsentis, Amber Horton, Ellie Gillard, Kate Spence and Paige Jones were devastated.

They were pleased, however, that dancers from Bryn Hafren,

Amber Summers, Nioami Everitt, Rhia Dutton, Brooke Clark, Rhian Dwyer, Kiera Davies and Chalise Ludvigsen known as 'Adrenaline,' won first place with their outstanding performance and choreographic piece.

The three Vale teams will now be competing at the national schools final against school teams from across the UK where they will also have the chance to meet.

I am so proud of the standard of street dance that was shown on the day of the competition from all the dancers from the Vale schools.

Their dedication and commitment to the 5x60 dance sessions showed in their performance, as they were all confident and interesting to watch.

Thanks go to all the tutors and 5x60 officers from each school for their hard work and support.

EMMA MALLAM

BARRY TOWN BUY-OUT ON OFFER TO FANS

BARRY TOWN fans are in a league level.

race against time to ensure the club can play in the at Jenner Park have been paid for by MacWhirter Welsh League for the 2011-12 season.

Supporters need to raise the sum of £125,000 and be able to make additional payments in years to come.

A statement on the club's website explained: "Barry Town AFC Ltd is being offered for sale at a reduced price in order for the first team to continue playing in the Welsh League.

"The club is being offered at a £125,000 down payment with further instalments of £2,000 per month for three years."

If fans or an individual buyer cannot raise the necessary funds, it won't mean the end of the club, but the chairman Stuart Lovering has decided he can no longer pay out subsidies to the senior team.

The statement points out: "If no buyer is found the club will continue to operate children and youth teams, as well as adult teams – but at a lower

"The costs of the team and playing the club can play in the at Jenner Park have been paid for by MacWhirter Welsh League for the 2011-12 season.

"The club might therefore appeal to a couple of guys or a family who would like to own and run their own bar and football club with scope for greater income from starting food sales in the 400 capacity clubhouse that overlooks the stadium from the first floor."

The statement concludes: "Alternatively, one or more business-people may be interested in running the club as a self-funding enterprise to enjoy the football side of the business."

Serious investors are invited to contact Mr Lovering on 07751 441 561.

ABOVE: 'Recess', St Richard Gwyn.

Community council elects new chairman



Outgoing chairman Coun John Huw Williams transferring the chairmanship to incoming chairman Coun Christopher Williams.

AT the annual general meeting of the Dinas Powys Community Council last week in Lee Hall, Coun Gale Smith proposed Coun Christopher Williams as chairman of Dinas Powys Community Council.

She said that he had been a community councillor for nearly 20 years after winning a by-election in 1992.

He is chairman of scrutiny for economic development and environment, as well as being scrutiny champion for the Vale.

In 1980, he and his wife Jacqui moved to Dinas Powys and have three sons, Rhodri, Bryn and Ioan.

In 2000, he became a county councillor for Dinas Powys and served briefly in the Labour/Plaid cabinet holding the portfolio for planning and transportation.

He is also chairman of Proiect Gwyrdd (Green Project) joint security panel for the combined councils of Cardiff, Caerffili, Monmouthshire, Newport and the Vale.

Kay aims to be Welsh Learner of the Year

A VALE woman is one of the four finalists in line for the Welsh Learner of the Year title.

Kay Holder works as a private tutor in Spanish, French and German. Originally from Penarth, she lives in Dinas Powys and started learning Welsh at the Cardiff held National Eisteddfod in 2008.

She is now helping preparations for the 2012 National Eisteddfod which will be held at Llandow in the Vale.

Kay said: "I'm a vegan and I attend-

ed the Eisteddfod to promote veganism, and discovered a new language, culture and world.

"I also started learning the harp at the Eisteddfod in Cardiff and have already completed the Grade 3 exam. So the Eisteddfod changed my life!"

Kay studied Welsh when living in England, and after returning to Wales, has attended refresher courses and Siawns am Siarad 4.

The Welsh Learner result will be announced at this year's National Eisteddfod in Wrexham on July 30-August 6.

Open Farm Sunday

TO mark Open Farm Sunday – an annual event where people can meet local farmers who grow their food and care for the countryside – Slade Farm organics are opening their farm gates on Sunday, June 12 for a free day out.

Activities include tractor and trailer rides, pig-racing and a farm olympics, a gentle farm walk and a reviving cup of tea!

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bridgend-today.co.uk

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NEWS FROM THE PENARTH & DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Walkers enjoy looking out from Holy Mountain

ON an overcast morning, a group of 15 walkers, including leader Clive, made their way to Llanvihangel Crucorney at the start of a nine-mile walk in the area, beginning at possibly the oldest pub in Wales – the Skirrid Inn, which dates back to 1100.

Crossing the main A465 road with care, the group headed down the driveway of the privately owned Llanvihangel Court, a 15th century Tudor manor house which contains some fine 17th century panelling, plaster ceilings and a fine oak staircase.

Continuing along a tree-lined lane, they crossed fields to reach a lane, which in turn led them to Pen-y-Parc, where they paused to enjoy morning coffee,

watched closely by a bull in a nearby enclosure, which plainly had his eye on their sandwiches!

The gentle ascent of The Arwallt followed along to the base of the north end of the Skirrid Mountain. Joining part of the Beacons Way, the 100-mile long distance footpath running through the centre of Wales, the group began to climb up onto the ridge.

They passed the remains of the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to St Michael that was reputed to be a secret location for Catholic mass during the 17th century when Catholics were persecuted for practising their faith.

Folklore has it that the earth from Skirrid was holy, and so it was taken away and scattered in fields on coffins and into the foundations of churches.

Skirrid Mountain or Holy Mountain or Sacred Hill as it is known, is

named Ysgyryd Fawr in Welsh, the word Ysgyryd indicating the shape of the hill and meaning shattered. Legend has it that the hill broke into two at the time of Christ's crucifixion during a violent storm but realistically, it was formed during the Ice Age.

From their vantage point, they could enjoy the clear uninterrupted views of Brecon, Sugar Loaf and towards the Malvern Hills, before it was time to begin the gentle descent along to the southern end of the ridge.

Finding a sun trap out of the blustery wind, the group enjoyed lunch before continuing downhill to return around the base of the mountain, where in a wood the bluebells were still in flower and very fragrant.

Passing through the valley of the rocks, they crossed several fields and a small wood to return to

Llanvihangel Court, followed by some welcome refreshment at the Skirrid Inn. It is said, the rebel self-proclaimed Prince of Wales, Owain Glyndwr, whose aim (amongst others) was to make Wales independent, is alleged to have rallied his troops in the cobbled courtyard in the early 15th century before marching into battle.

On May 28, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for an eight-mile moderate walk at Cwmcamlais; contact Phil on 01446 711533.

On May 29, meet 9.30am at Cogan for a seven-mile moderate walk in the Margam area; contact Val H on 029 2051 3274.

On June 2, meet at 7pm at Dinas Powys village square for a 3.5-mile moderate evening walk at St Andrews; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

JOY STRANGWARD

Penarth Computer Club news

Mike F spoke about AutoCorrect to remind us how useful and customisable it can be. These are his (edited) notes:

INITIALLY, I would point out that the software I use is 'Open Office' which is a free download. It operates in most aspects exactly the same as 'Microsoft Word'. For this cameo talk, my experience indicates

that the Auto correct function is identical.

Before examining Auto correct in detail, note two related icons on the toolbar marked 'ABC'. The one with the tick underneath it (when clicked) will undertake a grammar and spell check of the whole document. The other icon, the 'ABC' with the wavy line underneath, switches on and off the 'Auto spell Check' function that draws a wavy line under-

neath any word the computer doesn't recognise. If you click on the relevant word it will provide a list of the words you might intend.

To access 'Auto correct' you click on `Format > Auto correct > Auto correct Options`. This opens the Auto correct dialogue box. This displays four tabs, namely 'Replace', 'Exceptions', 'Localised Options' and 'Word Completion'.

Taking these tabs in sequence, 'Replace' lists

those words that are commonly misspelled together with the correction that will be made. In addition, if there are any words you constantly mistype you can add these too. There is a useful function in this section which is not always appreciated. If you regularly write the same phrase, sentence or paragraph you can insert a code (a deliberate misspelling!) in the left hand box and in the replace box write what you want instead.

Thereafter, whenever you type the relevant code, when you press the spacebar your phrase, sentence or paragraph will be substituted. eg mfa(spacebar) will insert my full address because I have set it to do this.

Next along the line is 'Exceptions'. This does what it says on the tin! For example, if you wish to abbreviate the word accountant to acct; if you write acct, it might automatically insert the full word, but as it is in the exceptions list if you type acct, with a full stop after the 't' it will accept it.

After this comes 'Options' – this one largely speaks for itself, here you can tick boxes to select those functions you wish to use.

'Localised Options' allows you to set the system to ensure whenever you type 1, followed by s, and t, it makes it 1st. In the same way you can opt to use single or double quote marks.

The final 'Word Completion' tab completes the word it thinks you want. Eg, 'comp' might be completed as 'completion', hit enter to accept the change. Some find this unhelpful as wrong assumptions then need editing! You could use the crafty cheat under the 'Replace' tab as described above.

Enquiries on 029 2070 8439.

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Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Moving on from the Famous Five and Secret Seven....

Childcare has changed since days of Enid Blyton

by
**PHILIP
IRWIN**

THERE must be more than a few parents who approach half term and cast a wistful eye back towards child care in the Enid Blyton era.

Remember the adventures of the Famous Five and the Secret Seven? There were no parents anywhere to be seen in the stories. The kids were packed off to stay with an aunt in some secluded area far from the nearest town, but that one adult's only purpose was to provide a bed for the night, give them a packed lunch, and provide a slap-up

evening meal with, of course, 'lashings of ginger beer'!

As far as the Famous Five or Secret Seven were concerned, there were no organised play sessions or issues with parental supervision.

The kids provided their own entertainment by catching a gang of international smugglers, or perhaps by discovering the lair of a nest of spies! However, times change and there is no point moaning about it. The world is different now and you can't go back.

Traditionalists may complain that children today lead a hermetically sealed existence with no opportunity to

run wild and free, but we live in a different world.

For modern parents, the cup overflows with opportunities to give their child experiences that can be enriching, educational and fun!

After-school activities, whether at school or at any one of a myriad of evening sessions, already have parents following a timetable that is based around giving their child a chance to try different things, whether that be swimming, gymnastics, chess, drama – the list goes on...

When half term comes around, the dilemma seems to lie in whether to choose an activity that will develop the personality or the physical well-being.

It is ironic that, at a time when so much information is available on how to be a good parent, the sheer quantity of advice ends up leaving many parents confused (at best) or guilty (at worst).

As recently as last weekend, the newspapers were carrying reports saying that children nowadays are physically weaker than their counterparts 20 or so years ago.

They can, apparently, do fewer press-ups, sit-ups or pull-ups.

This is a surprise, because sports reports here in The GEM suggest that the Saturday or Sunday morning ritual of mini football or mini rugby is still going strong.

The question is, in a technological future with less scope for physical manual work, how important is that lack of strength and fitness going to be?

Perhaps the modern parent should be developing the IT skills rather than those biceps and quads!

Another dilemma for parents is this one: Do you work on your child's strengths or weaknesses?

This is a really tricky one because,

not surprisingly, children prefer to do the things they are good at. Somehow the joys of self improvement are lost on a young one.

Perhaps the thing to do is use times such as half term to embrace the different possibilities. On these pages there so many to choose from.

Half term is an ideal time to experiment. Do some old favourites but make sure you try a few new things to see how your child takes to them.

And finally... Well, you can always send them and a few friends out for the day to see if they catch some smugglers – with supervision, of course!

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Children's Choices

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A CHANCE TO BURN OFF EXCESS ENERGY! FUNTIME AT VALE LEISURE CENTRES THIS HALF-TERM!

YOU can't buy much for less than £1 these days, but at the Vale of Glamorgan's leisure centres this half term, there will be a range of fun activities on offer for just 50p!

That's all it will cost for youngsters aged four to 11 to take part in street dance and cheer-leading sessions, both of which will be on offer at all four of the county's main leisure centres in Barry, Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit

Major. A number of other activities taking place during the week will cost only £1, including dance mats, tag rugby, football and soft play.

The new interactive dance mats will also form one half of disability sport sessions at Barry Leisure Centre, along with a swimming lesson.

Further swimming lessons will be available for children aged four and above, in crash courses being held in Barry, Penarth and Llantwit Major.

Under-16s can also swim for free at specific times, or take their pick

from a number of pool-based activities, including snorkelling, water polo and a rookie life-guards course.

For full details, programmes can be collected from the leisure centres, or downloaded from www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/leisurecentres (or call 01446 403000).

The Barry and Llantwit Major leisure centres will be closed on Monday, May 30, while Cowbridge Leisure Centre, Penarth Leisure Centre and Holm View Leisure Centre will all close early at 5pm on that day.

Stuck in a rut this holiday?

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Check out our Out and About pages on 28 and 29 for more great activities for both young and old!

Also see page 20 for a chance to win one of two pairs of tickets to this Saturday's performance of High School Musical at Porthcawl's Grand Pavilion!



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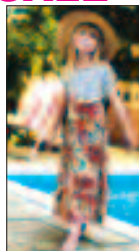
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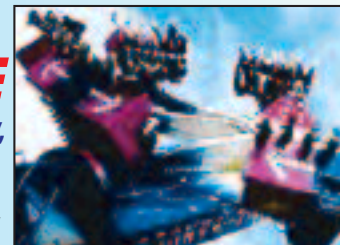
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FRIDAY THE 13TH, LUCKY FOR SOME!

FRIDAY the 13th was certainly not an unlucky day for personnel at MoD St Athan – the weather might not have been up to much, but there was sunshine and smiles from SWARM members Diane Jones, Helen Taylor, Leah Lewis, and Stephanie White.

They toured the site with a wonderful selection of homemade cakes to sell in aid of Ty Hafan. During the morning, the sale of cakes raised more than £246 which went towards their sponsorship of the event.

SWARM members had again signed up to take part in the Ty Hafan Sleep Walk which took place in Cardiff on the night of Friday, May 13. The ladies walked from the Millennium Stadium around the city centre before heading to Cardiff



Left to right: Midnight Sleep Walkers, Leah Lewis, Stephanie White, Diane Jones and Helen Taylor.

Bay and then returning to the stadium.

The walk covered eight miles and to aid visibility and to keep the walkers safe, the organisers issued each participant with flashing bunny ears and glow jewellery to wear with their pyjamas.

The ladies started arriving back at the stadium in the early hours of Saturday morning with the stragglers making it back by 5.30am!

SWARM member Diane, who walked with her daughter, Alison, said: "The Midnight Sleep Walk is a chance for women to show their support for mothers who have to endure endless nights with no sleep to care for their children."

"The walk is a much-needed event to not only raise money, but also to raise awareness of the work that Ty Hafan does to help these mothers when their child has a life limiting medical condition."

It was hoped that the 400 Midnight Sleep Walkers at the Cardiff event would raise over £4,000 in just one night!

A difficult challenge, but achievable – and there couldn't be a more worthwhile cause. **JB**

Businessman's national award

BARRY businessman Clive Thomas has been awarded the 'leadership in private sector' award at this year's 2011 Leading Wales awards, which recognise leadership across all levels, in association with Real Radio Wales.

He was one of three finalists in the category and was recognised for 'setting an example and leading from the front'.



ABOVE: Clive Thomas.

Another great GEM younger readers' competition

The GEM has joined forces with The Grand Pavilion, Porthcawl to offer two free pairs of tickets to this Saturday's High School Rocks extravaganza.

To win one of the two free pairs of tickets, you need to be quick! E-mail The GEM by noon on Friday 27 May with your name and contact details to gemsales@tindlenews.co.uk with the subject line 'Grand Pavilion Competition'.

Please seek permission from a parent/guardian if you are under 16 and include their details when entering the competition. Please note, winners will need to pick up tickets from the Grand Pavilion box office on Saturday 28 May for the show which starts at 2.30pm.

Even if you're not successful, you can still book tickets for High School Rocks. Tickets are £12 and are available from the Grand Pavilion Box office on 01656 815995, or you can book online at www.grandpavilion.co.uk



Would-be Wildcats of all ages will love this afternoon of high energy, foot stomping, totally interactive music and singing with a set that features all the very best hits from all three High School Musicals, Hannah Montana - The Movie, Camp Rock with The Jonas Brothers and Glee. For one afternoon only the Grand Pavilion will become East High, and fans of all ages are invited to join in the fun.

BARRY RFC 2010/11 SEASON REVIEW

Successful season for rugby teams

AFTER being promoted as champions the season before, hopes were high that the Barry First XV were going to perform well again this season, under the management of Prosser and Gibbons.

The season got off to a flying start, with the team winning three on the trot, including two games where they achieved bonus points.

Hopes for successive promotions, however, were soon dented by a poor run of results, not helped by a mounting list of injuries to players in key positions.

Through hard work by the coaching staff and players, on and off the field, the team finally turned the corner just before Christmas when they notched a hard-earned win at home against Nantymoel.

With the turn of the year, more injuries meant that players graduating from the Second XV and youth team were given their shot in the first team, and they all performed admirably.

The combination of experience and youthful enthusiasm in the squad was reflected in the results, culminating in a derby victory against promotion-chasing Llantwit Major.

The green and whites finished strongly towards the end of the season, ending in fifth position, and having beaten three of the four teams above them in the table.

The future appears bright, and praise must be given to the coaching staff, management team and all the players involved.

Barry Second XV WITH both the First XV and youth team winning their respective leagues last season, many believed this would be the season for the Second XV.

With former player Dai Griffith joining the coaching staff alongside Rhidian Scott, and team manager Charlie Chucas continuing where he left off last season, the team got off to a flyer.

With a huge amount of players to choose from, many talented players were left out of the match squad altogether, but that did not affect the cohesion, as was reflected in the on-field results.

There was an extra steel in the Barry Second XV attitude and a determination to win every single game, culminating in some fantastic attacking rugby.

Nine straight wins before Christmas propelled them to the top of

the table, with impressive displays, particularly away at Pontyclun and Old Iltydians.

A slight dip in form just after the turn of the year, partially due to injuries and first team call-ups, failed to dampen the spirit of the squad, and it all came down to the last home game against Clwb Rygbi, when the team ran in six tries to secure the title and promotion.

The season showcased the talent that was available in the squad and that the players were no longer just happy with taking part.

The fantastic winning attitude was a pleasure to see and the coaching staff must be congratulated on creating such a positive mentality.

Barrians

FOR many years, there was a struggle to find sufficient players to field a second team, but their success this season has seen the creation of a third team – the Barrians.

With player-manager Ken Chow persuading William Knapanout of retirement to help manage the team, many former players were lured back to don the green and white jersey once more with pride.

Blending the experience of these former players with the enthusiasm of others who have only just started playing rugby, the Barrians slowly found their way.

There were some disappointing results against much stronger opposition, but the team finally earned their first win away at Wick, followed by back-to-back victories against Sea View and Cardiff HSOB in November.

The Barrians continued to evolve in the second half of the season as more players joined, and their game against Spanish opposition from Vic was a celebration of rugby, with the match being played in good spirits.

The team will hope to build on their foundations laid this season and to continue to support the two teams above them, while also allowing players to enjoy themselves on the pitch.

Club news

THE Barry RFC club dinner will be held on June 18.

Tickets are limited, and are £10 for players and £15 for non-players.

Anyone interested should contact the clubhouse or Andy Jamieson at Vale Street Post Office as soon as possible. **KC**

Win England-Sri Lanka Test match tickets!

TO celebrate the first npower Test Match of 2011 from May 26-30, which will see England take on Sri Lanka at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff, npower are giving cricket fans a chance to watch the action unfold before their very eyes at the stadium!

Following their victorious win in Australia to retain the Ashes, England will be looking to make a solid start to the season on home soil.



However Sri Lanka will be no push over, so an exciting contest of wickets and runs is sure to be on the cards.

npower are proud sponsors of Test Match cricket. For more information, please visit www.npower.com/cricket etc.

The Glamorgan GEM has a pair of tickets available for Saturday and Sunday, and for your chance to win a pair of tickets, just

answer the following question: Who is the current captain of the England Test team? A) Andrew Strauss, B) Kevin Pietersen or C) Andrew Flintoff.

Email your answer, along with full name and telephone number, to gemsales@internet-today.co.uk no later than 11am on Friday, May 27.

You must be available to collect the tickets from our office in Cowbridge no later than 4pm the same day.

No correspondence will be entered into and judge's decision is final - good luck!

Findlay's Find wins point-to-point race

BARGAIN buy Findlay's Find – he cost his owners Paul and Myfanwy Miles just £500 – landed the mixed open race at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Point-to-Point Steeplechases in great style, coming home six lengths ahead of Chesnut Annie.

Both the winner and runner-up are qualified with the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt, and when Chesnut Annie, under her regular pilot Isabel Tompsett, went clear of Lucky Nellerie approaching the 12th fence, her backers must have thought the 10-year-old mare was on her way to her 30th success.

But it was not to be, as the remarkable five-year-old Findlay's Find, who was winning for the third time in just seven days, overtook her much older rival three fences from the finish and went on to win by six lengths, with Bob Bites Back, ridden by Nick Williams, a distant third.

Williams had been aboard Findlay's Find when it had won at Laleston the previous Saturday and three days later, when winning the ladies' open at Cottlestone, Claire Hart had been in the saddle.

However, the winning rider on this occasion was Richard Burton, who is something of a legend in hunt-racing circles having ridden more than 400 winners.

Earlier, Chesnut Annie's rider Isabel Tompsett had won the members' race on Jason Parfitt's lazy grey Turbulance, who had to be coaxed around by the reigning Welsh champion rider and eventually won by 15 lengths from Rich Nomad.

There was a good finish to the confined race in which former Dudley Cup winner Cottage River, ridden by Jodie Hughes, beat Hollow Ranger, ridden by Ben Poste, by three parts of a length.

Princesse De Rome, partnered by Nick

Williams, looked like winning but run down the last fence and finished a further half-a-length away in third.

Jodie, who is making a bold bid for the Welsh ladies championship, said: "I must have been two lengths behind jumping the last and this is my sixth winner of the season."

Jodie's partner, Paul Tolman, took the restricted race on Dr Simon Clarke's 10-year-old Diddle Em which jumped the last fence alongside Spring Haze ridden by Tom David.

Diddle Em, a 12-1 chance, won by two-and-a-half lengths and was winning for the first time in three years.

The biggest cheers heard at a Welsh point-to-point in years went to Paul Sheard, who landed the young horse maiden race on his seven-year-old bay gelding Gouranga Society. Paul (40) from Culverhouse Cross in Cardiff, survived a bad mistake at

the 13th fence when leading the field a merry gallop, but was soon back in the lead.

Strongly challenged in the closing stages by Nick Williams on the favourite Glenskeskin, Paul cheekily stood up in his stirrups just before the finish to win by a neck!

Paul, who is just 5ft 2ins, has only ever ridden one other winner and that was ItsOnlyMe, which won the Welsh Point-To-Point 'Grand National' over four miles at Pentrych back in 2006.

Young Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan, recorded his seventh winner of the season when winning the aged horse open maiden on Paul Riddick's nine-year-old bay mare Sheer Brilliance, who scored by seven lengths from Peterman ridden by David Prichard.

BRIAN LEE

Jockey seriously injured in race

A FEMALE jockey with strong connections to the Vale and Bridgend county borough has been seriously injured in a fall at a race in England.

The leading amateur rider Isabel Tompsett, who many hunt-racing enthusiasts in the Vale will associate with Beth Roberts's prolific winner Chesnut Annie, is – at the time of writing – on a life support machine at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Isabel (28) sustained serious head injuries after falling from Leopold in a hurdle race at Fakenham on Sunday, stopped breathing twice and had to be resuscitated by paramedics.

She was taken to Norwich and Norfolk Hospital but later transferred to Cambridge.

Only 24 hours earlier, the reigning Welsh champion point-to-point rider had been successful on

the grey Turbulance at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases at Lower Machen.

She later finished second on Chesnut Annie to Findlay's Find in the mixed open race (see article above).

Isabel, an equine vet of high regard, is well known to Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan and has won many point-to-point races in the Vale.

She has ridden winners on the flat, over hurdles and over jumps and won the 2009-10 female jump jockeys' title.

On Tuesday (May 24) it was reported that doctors were confident that Isabel had no serious neck or spinal injuries, and they had removed her neck brace.

A statement said that she was still heavily sedated, and that no change was expected in the next two or three days.

BRIAN LEE

Bryn Hafren girls say farewell as they move on to higher education and the real world!

YEAR-11 pupils at Bryn Hafren school, Barry, took a break from studying for exams to come to their leaving ceremony.

They were addressed by head-teacher Phil Whitcombe, and certificates were handed out in a ceremony in the school hall.

Afterwards, the girls got together in form groups, or with friends, for the more recent tradition of signing shirts, as a memento of their time together in Bryn Hafren.

*Pictures
by
IAN DIXON*



Cadets learn about times past in Barry town

Photographs by **Paul Jones**
www.valeevents.co.uk

CADETS from Penarth, Barry and Llandaff North detachments, took part in an inter-generational learning day at Barry Library, to coincide with the launch of Dr Jonathan Hicks' book, *The Dead of Mametz*.

Also at the event was Mrs Eileen Younghusband, providing a presentation on her book *Not An Ordinary Life*, and members of the local World War II re-enactment society.

Cadets gave presentations on field cooking, basha building and living comfortably in the field, and first aid skills. They also met and talked to a lot of members of the public.

To find out more about the Army Cadet Force, call 07779 693555, or visit www.armycadets.com.



Ring trees and tooth fairy pouches show pupils' enterprise!



THE YEAR-6 pupils and their teacher, Sue Thomas, at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School were very busy during the spring term working on their Mini Enterprise project.

Among the many handmade products they produced were jewellery, ring trees, tooth fairy pouches, pen holders and adorable pebble pets. They also made fancy cakes and sweets.

They held their fair last Friday after school and were inundated with eager customers who couldn't wait to bag a bargain. The youngsters thoroughly enjoyed their hands-on lesson in the world of commerce and their efforts raised a whopping £285 for Cancer Research.

Headteacher Richard Ware was impressed by the children's enthusiasm and keen business sense. Last week, Helen, a representative from the Marie Curie Foundation, was invited along to the school assembly to receive the cheque.

She warmly thanked Mrs Thomas and the pupils of Year 6 for a fantastic effort in raising money for this excellent cause.

NM



Hammer Strength Gym provides a lift for local weight trainers

EXTRA muscle has been added to leisure facilities in Barry – with the opening of the new Hammer Strength Gym at Holm View Leisure

a spokesperson said. "The new gym is perfect for anyone who is serious about their weight training, and is the latest in a series of exciting improvements that are being made in local communities across the town as part of the multi-million pound Barry regeneration fund.

"£100,000 was awarded by the Welsh Government for the Hammer Strength project, and the

new gym is a huge improvement on the old Hammer Strength Gym, which was located just a mile away at the Colcot Sports Centre."

An area of the gym is dedicated to boxing training, with several punch bags and space for pad work, while a qualified member of staff will always be on duty to help with training advice. Both the male and female changing rooms have been completely refurbished while the CCTV system has also been upgraded.

Speaking at the official opening of the new Hammer Strength Gym, the Vale Council's cabinet member for leisure and tourism,

Coun Anthony Ernest, said: "I am delighted to see how an under-utilised area of Holm View Leisure Centre has been transformed into another high quality leisure facility for the town.

"I fully appreciate that a number of customers were concerned that the council was taking a much-loved facility away from the Colcot Sports Centre, but the feedback so far since the move has been extremely positive.

"I would like to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this project happen in such a short period of time."

St. Aubin's, Cowbridge Two Nurseries in One

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

St Aubin's Nursery brings its childcare ethos to Cowbridge

IT is not every day that a business opens in Cowbridge that will offer 50 new jobs, but that is the case with the opening of St Aubin's Nursery.

The former medical centre in the Old Hall Gardens has been transformed into a modern nursery with a range of facilities for children from six weeks to school age, and the setting is a perfect fit as far as the owner of St Aubin's, Sue Evans, is concerned.

The nursery is open now, although the grand official opening will not take place until July, and Sue Evans spoke to The GEM about what prompted her to get involved in the care of young children.

She said: "The over-riding thing is that I love being with children. They are so honest, so funny and so direct – and I love to watch them develop."

Sue's first job in childcare was in a Welsh language play group, and she became a trustee of the Llandough Special Needs Children Centre – an experience that only increased her desire to work with chil-



dren.

Shortly after, in 1990, she discovered that a French woman in Penarth was selling her nursery. However, that lady was particular and, rather than just talking cash, Sue found herself being interviewed to see if the lady felt she was a suitable person to take over!

Luckily, Sue passed the test and bought St Aubin's Nursery in Penarth. Sue said: "She explained that St Aubin was the patron saint of children, so I decided to keep the

name!"

The name brought good fortune too, because the venture was a success, and Sue retained the name every time she looked at a new venture.

Expansion has been steady, giving each nursery several years to bed down and establish its own atmosphere before contemplating a new one.

At the same time, Sue kept up to date with developments in the field and is now the vice-chair of the National Day Nursery Association.

However, Sue lived in Cowbridge for several years and always wanted to open in the town, and she jumped at the chance when the medical centre became available.

The result is two nurseries in one – a Welsh language one, and an English equivalent – with dedicated staff for each. The two groups have their own areas, although there are certain play areas that are shared.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)



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St. Aubin's, Cowbridge Two Nurseries in One



ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

'WE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO HELP THE PARENTS'



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)
Apart from the regular staff, a series of specialists are employed. A GP can advise staff or concerned parents, and the team can also draw on the talents of teachers, a nurse, play workers, a drama coach, and even sign language teachers.

When St Aubin's bought the medical centre, it came with six parking spaces outside in the car park alongside the town walls. Sue also became the owner of a sizeable chunk of the Old Hall gardens.

She told The GEM: "One of the reasons that I was so delighted to get this site was that I had

been so impressed by the Cowbridge Physic Garden. When I discovered that the Old Hall Gardens were being revamped, I spoke to the Charter Trust to try and work with them.

"They have been so helpful and they are really doing a fantastic job."

In fact, when the official opening is held on Saturday, July 16, there will be celebrity guests and stalls in aid of charity, with the money raised shared between the Charter Trust and the Alzheimer's Society.

The nearby gardens fit in perfectly with Sue's philosophy, which is to let children enjoy the open air whenever



possible. The nursery operates the Foundation Phase education system, learning through play, often outdoors, as advocated by the Welsh Assembly, but Sue's nurseries have been doing this for a lot longer.

All her nurseries are attached to parks, and her staff are used to letting children explore their surroundings while keeping a careful eye on them.

Sue added: "I have a fantastic group of

people working for me, and everyone becomes part of the St Aubin family. We bend over backwards to help parents because we believe we should support the family unit.

"I think you have to look after your parents too, because some of them travel a long way to bring their children here.

"We send them off with a coffee and a croissant because they work hard all day too!"

PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE:
A helping hand from one of the staff.



ABOVE: Osian has the honour of being the first little one to start at the nursery.

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COWBRIDGE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SPORTS ROUND-UP

Gymnastics

THE British Schools Gymnastics Floor and Vault Championships were held over the weekend at Fenton Manor Sports Complex, Stoke on Trent.

The girl's team at under-13 were representing Wales as a region against Northern Ireland, Scotland and 15 regions from England.

This was a very strong competition at this level with the girl's team being first on the floor on Friday morning.

The judge's marks seemed slightly harsh for the girls compared with the rest of the day, but the girls gave their best and finished in the top ten regions.

Individual Scores	Vault	Floor	Total
Jasmine Stevens	8.30	7.05	15.35
Jordan Stevens	8.05	5.85	13.90
Bridgett Walters	8.20	6.45	14.65
Mia Sexton	8.90	7.90	16.80
Ellie Medlicott	-	5.45	-
Stephanie Sanders	8.35	-	-

Rugby

THE annual school First XV v The Old Boys rugby game was played recently at Cowbridge Rugby Club.

With the school side still fatigued from winning the National Vase two nights earlier, the Old Boys claimed a famous 19-12 victory.

The school side was missing the very influential Ben Smith and Reuben Tucker, and the Old Boys took advantage of this with some early dominance up front.

Scott Jones starred for the Old Boys at outside half and formed a great partnership with former captain Tom Howson.

Rhys Allin looked dangerous for the school team and Christian Roberts Walters showed glimpses of brilliance on the wing.

Gus Rees McPherson has been outstanding all season and carried lots of ball for the school side.

With both teams electing to run the ball at all times, the game was fast, flowing and open. The Old Boys deserved the close win after dominating large periods of the second half.

The game was followed by a presentation and dinner in the Cowbridge Rugby clubhouse.

Man of the match was deservedly won by Scott Jones from the Old Boys and player of the year was a two-way battle between Rhys Allin and captain Ben Smith.

The award went to Ben who showed excellent leadership skills throughout the season.

The team would like to send out a huge thank you to all parents, staff and to Dai Thomas for refereeing the game.

A special mention has to go to Cowbridge Rugby Club for their continued support and for providing a venue and meal for the game and presentation evening respectively.

The club will start pre-season training in the summer and all boys are welcome to attend.

Indoor Cricket

THE City of Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan Schools indoor six-a-side under-13 tournament was held at Sophia Gardens Glamorgan Cricket Centre, Cardiff.

In a two innings match against Fitzalan School, Cowbridge scored well with a first innings of 96 for 3 off 10 overs, Oliver Pike 25 not out, the second innings were 120 for 1, Tom Lucas 24 not out, Matthew Harper 21 not out, Jonathan Harvey 23 not out, Oliver Pike 22 not out.

Fitzalan were dismissed for 44 in the first innings, (Rian Thomas 2 for 15, The second innings 49 all out, Adam Jones 2 for 6, Matthew Harper 2 for 11).

Whitchurch - 44 all out, (Rian Thomas 20 not out). 54 second innings, (Oliver Pike 19).

The strong team of Whitchurch passed the totals comfortably to win the tournament.

NEC

THE British Schools Sports Hall Athletics Championships were held at the NEC Birmingham, and 10 boys from Cowbridge Comprehensive School represented the county of Cardiff, and Vale Schools athletics represented Wales as a region at the above championships.

Having won the under-13 and under-15 boys age group at the Welsh championships in March, the county teams represented Wales as a region against Northern Ireland, Scotland and 15 regions of England.

Under-13 boys: the team finished ninth out of 18 regions with top performance of the day coming from county captain Tom Trotman of Cowbridge. Tom finished second in the high jump on count back with 1m 63cms. He also finished eighth in the two-lap race and sixth in the 4 x 2 lap relay team.

The next placed athlete was Ellis Rosser, seventh out of 36 in the six-lap race with 77.00 secs. Rian Thomas and Scott Thomas finished eighth in the eight-lap parlooff.

Nathan Robson was 10th for shot 9m 66; Kristian Jones 12th in the four-lap 49.10 secs; Harrison Stevens (year-7) 12th in the vertical jump 51cms;

School gymnasts finish strongly at the British championships



Glan Williams presents the man of the match award to Scott Jones.



Team Physiotherapist of the Year award

and Daniel Oddy competed both in the obstacle relay and 4 x 1 lap relay.

Under-15s: Oliver Trotman from year-13 took the responsibility of managing this age group to help Glan Williams and what a fantastic job he did. He jelled the team together to produce the best set of results the county have had at this level.

With two Cowbridge boys in the team of seven, led by George Griffiths with Rafi Shrizard, they finished third in the team event out of 18 regions.

Both George and Rafi collected bronze medals in the 4 x 2 lap race. However, George picked up another three medals; a bronze in the two-lap race and silver in the standing long jump, equalling the Welsh record of 2m 8.2 and bronze in the individual all rounder's section out of 60 athletes.

Well done to all athletes who represented the school with distinction at the highest level possible. A big thank you to Oliver Trotman, who gave up his Sunday to help and support the county, using his experience of three previous visits as a competitor.

Athletics

THE year-12 and 13 pupils took part in the Cardiff and Vale Senior Championships. There were low numbers competing due to examinations, and Cowbridge fielded the biggest team and consequently won the team competition.

Sabrina James came first in the 1,500m in 6m 20.2, Holly Preece came first in the 3,000m in 15m 23 and Alyson Bater second in 10m 10.

Georgia Jackson came second in the 100 hurdles in 21.2, second in the triple jump with 7m 81 and first in the javelin with 15m 96, while N i c o l e Collier came first in the high jump with 1m 35, Louise Edwards came second in the shot putt with 6m 96 and second in the hammer with 14m 96, and the girls relay team came third.

In the senior girls event there were four county champions. Georgia Kemeys came third in the 100m in 15.7, fourth in the 800m with 3.14 and sixth in the long jump with 3m 71.

Jessica Hayes came third in the 100m with 15.9 and second in the 200m with 32.6.

Lydia James came fifth in the 200m with 36.8 and eighth in the long jump with 3m 01.

Katie Howson came second in the 400m with 77.0 and third in the javelin with 14m 04.

Verity Morgan came fifth in the 800m with 3m 14.4.

The boys fared nearly as well as the girls. Sam Bunkham was the only county champion in the triple jump with a jump of 11m 67; Sam also came 7th in the 100m with 13.2 and 2nd in the long jump with 5m 24.

Jack Laidlaw came 4th in the 200m with 27.2 and 4th in both the long and triple jump.

Sam Street came 5th in the 200m, Rhys Allin came 2nd in the 400m, Josh Thomas came 6th in the 400m and 8th in the high jump, while Matthew Logsdon came 5th in the 800m, 6th in the high jump and 7th in the shot putt.

Richard Wilks came 6th in the 800m and 4th in the 1500m, Dylan Layzell came 2nd in the 3,000m. Jack Wilkins came 5th in the 3,000m, and Samuel Morgan came 4th in the 400m hurdles. Oliver Trotman came 3rd in the shot putt and 5th in the javelin, Sam Dowell Bennett came 7th in the discus and 5th in the hammer, and Will Johnson came 7th



Under 15s
Athletic team at
the NEC in
Birmingham



The first XV and Old
Boys line up together



CKW Gymnastic girls

in the hammer and 6th in the javelin.

Meanwhile, Cowbridge year-10 and 11, athletes competed in the Cardiff and Vale County Championships held at Leckwith Stadium.

In common with some of the other competing schools, some athletes could not take part due to exams; however the girl's team still produced excellent performances and came second overall behind Bro Morgannwg.

Results: 100m - Isobel Armour fourth in heat one and Flynn Ashton sixth in heat 3; both did not reach the final.

200m - Mairi Boxall third in heat one and Flynn Ashton fifth in heat 3; both did not reach the final.

300m - Sophie Lloyd made the final after coming third in heat one and would have come third in the final with her heat time, however she did not compete! Beatrice Hawker came fifth in heat two.

800m - Rachel Bradshaw came third just beaten on the line and Jessica Jaques came sixth in the final. 1,500m - Fiona Bray came third in the final with a time of 5m 30.

3,000m - Miriam Bennett was the County Champion winning in 12m 42.

80H - Caitlin Allin came second in her heat and Shauna Jones made the final and finished sixth place.

300H - Miriam Bennett came second and Caitlin Allin 4th in the first ever 300m hurdles race.

Triple jump - Miriam Bennett finished seventh.

Shot putt - Isobel Armour came fourth and Hannah Jones twelfth.

Discus - Isobel Armour ninth and Hannah Jones eighteenth.

Hammer - A new event for Lucy Johnson and Anna Wynne, who came sixth and seventh respectively.

Javelin - Lucy Johnson came sixth and Anna Wynne seventeenth.

High jump - Rebecca Thomas and Molly Frost came equal fourth place.

Long jump - Romy Killick came sixth and Caitlin Allin seventh.

4 x 100m - Cowbridge came seventh in the final. This is a great achievement by the Cowbridge team, as although Cowbridge have a new school and outside facility, still there are no fields in use so only running events can be practiced.

After the recent club fixture for Cardiff AAC in Cheltenham, school athletes had some excellent performances.

George Griffiths, long jump 6.23metres (first in the ranking for Britain), 100metres 11.7 seconds, 200 metres 24.0 seconds; Tom Trotman, high jump 1m 70 (new school record); Alex Love, 800 metres, 2m 19secs; Annabel Curle, high jump, 1m 50.

Best of luck to all during the athletics season.

Year-8 Sevens team lose out after two-point defeat

THE Welsh Urd Sevens Tournament was held at Stradey School, Llanelli, and the school year-8 team was looking forward to this tournament after their experiences at Berkhamsted and Rosslyn Park.

The first day was four round robin games with a KO round:

Coed Cae Llanelli, won 29-7. Rian Thomas two tries, Tom Lucas (two), Tom Trotman.

Tregib Llandeilo, won 29-10. Tom Lucas (two), Tom Trotman, Joe Davies, Nathan Robson, Matthew Harper (two).

Pwllheli, won 45-14. Joseph Treharne (three), Rian Thomas (four), Matthew Harper five conversions.

St Cenydd, won 42-0. Tom Trotman (three), Rian Thomas (two), Joe Davies, Matthew Harper (five conversions).

Knockout round:

Cwm Rhymni, won 36-0. Tom Lucas (two), Tom Trotman, Joe Davies (two), Rian Thomas.

On day two, eight teams qualified for the quarter finals with two pools of four. Winners and runners up went through to the semi finals.

Cwmataw Swansea, won 19-7. Tom Trotman (two), Ben Jones, Matthew Harper (two conversions).

Stradey School Llanelli, lost 19-21. Tom Trotman (two), Ben Jones, Matthew Harper (two conversions).

Glantaf, won 24-14. Tom Trotman (two), Rian Thomas, Ben Jones, Matthew Harper (two).

The game against Stradey School cost the team a place in the semi-final on countback of points scored. This placed the school third in the group as Glantaf and Stradey won two games also.

The school year-8 team has made tremendous progress in the sevens game this term, playing 24 games, winning 21 and losing three. Hopefully next year, this will help them succeed in winning a tournament. A big thanks you to the boys for all their hard work and dedication.

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BARRY ATHLETIC CRICKET ROUND-UP

Openers Nathan and Lee in 300-plus record stand!

BARRY Athletic CC celebrated another hat-trick of victories in what has proven to be a great start for the Stags in the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Cricket League.

First, **Nathan Baker's Barry Athletic 1st XI entertained league strugglers, Llantwit Fardre, as the Stags looked to establish themselves as a promotion contender for the second year in a row.**

Baker won the toss and chose to bat first on what was a rock hard surface with a short layer of live grass, offering something for the bowlers.

The Stags began constructively, with the new ball offering some difficulty for batsmen, Lee Morgan and Nathan Baker. However, after they got settled into their stride, there was no stopping them.

Runs came flowing from the bat from all angles. The visitors had no answer as both passed the 50-mark in quick fashion and with just 35 overs played in the innings, both had amassed centuries and didn't look like stopping. Everything went right for the Stags until the 42nd over, when Baker went after one ball too many and was brilliantly caught on the boundary, for a massive 181 runs from just 132 balls; a

magnificent effort from the Barry skipper.

Morgan batted through, right until the decision came from the Stags to declare after 44 overs, finishing on 121 not out.

History was made at the Barry Oval as the highest partnership was smashed to pieces, with the first wicket partnership making a massive 317 runs. Barry finished on 333-1 declared from 44 overs.

After tea, the Stags rushed out to finish the job and they got off to the perfect start by removing Lewis for just four, after being trapped lbw by Hellyar.

It was a successful day for the Stag bowling attack as wickets came tumbling down. Griffett (1-24) and Hellyar (4-54) tore through the top order and with some fine fielding, Barry kept the pressure firmly on the visitors.

A partnership of 47 brought some respectability for Fardre, however, Gee (1-43) and Usswald (3-9) wrapped up the lower end of the order and Barry proved to be much too strong, on the day, winning by 194 runs and claiming their first maximum 20 points of the season.

SECOND XI MAINTAIN GOOD EARLY SEASON FORM
SIMON PHILLIPS' Barry Athletic 2nd XI travelled along the M4,



Lee Morgan (left) 121 not out and Nathan Baker (right) 181 celebrate their record partnership of 317.

to face a possible 'banana-skin' in Rogestone Welfare.

With the pitch not looking at its best and conditions favouring the bowlers, Phillips won the toss and had no hesitation in bowling first.

The Stags looked in dominant form as the 'Welfare' failed to cope with the strength in depth. Wickets became a regular thing as bowlers, Dafydd Frost (four) and Callum Twomey (two) ripped through the batting order and looked very confident in their deliveries. An excellent partnership of swing and seam could prove to be a successful one as they continue to develop.

Rogestone didn't look like responding and the score could have looked a lot worse for the home side. A combination of excellent bowling and fielding, including two high-quality catches from Anthony Esposti, brought the innings to a premature end and Rogestone were bowled out for a miserable 106.

The Stags continued their dominance into the second innings, having performed brilliantly with the ball, and looked very impressive in their run chase.

Despite the early loss of in-form Craig Brock for a duck, the Stags never looked like losing. Batsmen, Andrew Buckland (51 not out) and Martin Baker (45 not out) put together a marvellous partnership of 107 to bring home the victory for the Stags and another march towards a possible promotion push for Division One cricket, next season.

STAGS MAKE IT 'SIX OF THE BEST'
Andy Ellis celebrated the club's sixth victory in a row (over two weekends) with a comprehensive 8-wicket win over Aberdare.

With a selection headache prior to the match, the Stags were able to field a few more familiar faces and give a debut to Steve Provis.

The conditions proved to be very difficult to bat, with gale force winds causing some disruption to the proceedings.

Therefore, it no surprise when Ellis won the toss and chose to have a bowl first.

The Stags began rampantly, as wickets began

to tumble in the opening overs as the visitors failed to cope with the Stags.

Bowlers, Nathan Baker (2-17) and Jake Griffett (1-20) looked in good touch as Aberdare failed to cope with the Stags' bowling.

The wickets were pretty spread about with Sam Walsh (1-5), Steve Provis (1-8), Mitchell Facey (1-11) and Callum Twomey (1-24) all getting in the act. Only Jarrod Davies (42) showed some sign of resistance on what was a sorry looking scorecard.

Aberdare failed to show any promise towards the end of the innings as they were restricted to just 124-8 in 40 overs.

The Stags showed some signs of a mini collapse with chances on offer for the visitors to get a positive start in the second innings. However, even after the early dismissals of Jake Griffett (15) and Mitchell Facey (1), the Stags looked odds-on favourites to secure the victory with time to spare.

Batsmen, Steve Provis (54 not out) and Ashley Baker (43 not out), shared a 105-run partnership to secure the victory – a victory in which boundaries were hit at regular intervals and put the Stags in cruise control. Barry won the match with only 16.3 overs bowled, closing on 127-2.

UNDER-9 MINI-FESTIVAL WASHED OUT

BILLY Usswald's Barry Athletic under-9s were left disappointed with the news that the mini-tournament at St Fagans, was washed out by the overnight downpours.

They travel to Vale CC next Sunday, where they will face Vale, Creigiau and Whitchurch Heath.

A final reminder that the start of season party will take place this Saturday at the Barry Oval.

The party schedule contains live coverage of the Champions league final, and live disco.

Action will start at 7.45pm, after the match between Barry Athletic 2nd XI and Welsh Asians CC has concluded.

AB

The Vale CC Seconds end Ebbw Vale's unbeaten run

VALE 242-4 (45 overs); Ebbw Vale 123-4 (45 overs) – won by 119 runs.

Ebbw Vale won the toss and asked Vale to bat first. The Vale batting was opened by Gareth Andrews and former first team captain Carl Brooks.

For the second week in a row, an opening stand of 50 was put on the board before Brooks was clean bowled for 21 with the score on 52.

This brought the skipper Mark Francis to the wicket to join Andrews and these two added 36 before Andrews was clean bowled for a well made 45.

Chris Pike came to the crease but soon departed to a controversial lbw decision, leaving Vale 90-3 after 20 overs.

The skipper called for a runner, which allowed Pike to re-enter the fray. This appeared to improve the running and Neil Raikes, batting in his favoured No 5 position, continued his golden run of form as he steadily built a second successive 50.

For a second week in a row, Raikes and Francis (with help from Pike) put a 90-run partnership together before the skipper's painful stay at the wicket was ended, with another dubious lbw decision, for 53 including one six and four fours.

Geraint Parry, returning after injury, joined Raikes and added 58 to take the Vale score to 242-4 after 45 overs. Raikes, for a second week in a row, put a splendid innings together, mixing patience with raw power and finished 75 not out including one six and eight fours, with Parry looking good on his first outing of the season 16 not out.

Ebbw Vale set off in pursuit of the Vale total but found runs hard to come by off Vale's mean opening attack of Jack Davies and Chris Pike.

Davies, bowling five maidens in his first six overs and Pike, four maidens in his first six overs, ensured the visitors were never going to chase down Vale's total. Pike struck the first

blow, knocking over the openers' stumps and that was soon followed by a second wicket as Shaun Boga-Lake took a marvellous juggling catch at mid-on.

Ebbw Vale's batsmen dug in and their difficulties in scoring runs continued as they only managed to post 40 off the first 26 overs.

Paul Gilbert, Oliver Pike and Shaun Boga-Lake all bowled good economical spells but still the wickets would not come. In a bid to get a further breakthrough and rattle through the overs as the skies darkened, the skipper gave Brooks' off spin a rare outing.

The experiment proved successful as he trapped the other opener, who had made a painstakingly slow 32, lbw leaving the visitors 75-3 in the 34th over.

The skipper returned to his opening bowlers to see if they could gain some further bowling points. Davies, bowling with genuine pace from the pavilion end, was desperately unlucky not to pick up a hatful of wickets but with the last ball of the innings, induced an edge to second slip which was well held by Chris Pike to gain Vale an extra bowling bonus point.

Ebbw Vale finished well short of the target on 123-4 after their 45 overs.

The Vale bowling figures were Jack Davies (11-4-31-1), Chris Pike (12-6-22-2), Paul Gilbert (7-2-14-0), Oliver Pike (4-0-9-0), Shaun Boga-Lake (5-0-17-0) and Carl Brooks (6-0-23-1).

RA

Waste of trip for Cadoxton bowls team

Cadoxton v Barry Plastics – Munro Cup
CADOXTON travelled to Sully for the Munro Cup match against Barry Plastics, and returned with no points.

Graham Brown's rink came closest to success when they lead throughout until a three on the final end gave the opponents, skipped by Eric Roberts, success by one shot.

Howard Craven's rink won three of the first four ends, before conceding a five on the next. They trailed 13-6 after 12 ends, then prevented the rink skipped by Bob Matthews from scoring for three ends, but lost the last four.

Les Cundliffe managed just six singles and a two against Bob Vadden's rink who scored steadily throughout.

Alan Carpenter and Lee Romans were the skips on the other rinks, which went in the visitors' favour during the first half of the game.

A six against stopped the run and boosted the home side to win the remaining ends except for two of them.

R Doble, P Ellis, I Robertson, G Brown 15-16 I Morgan, W Hogg, C Camber, E Roberts.

L Tanner, R Knight, L Davies, L Cundliffe 8-17 R Robbins, B Buckingham, M Phillips, R Vadden.

D Collard, R Cole, A Turner, A Carpenter 12-21 D Austin, R Clay, G Trickett, L Romans, S Clements, K Tanner, M Curtis, H Craven 9-20 D Dyer, G Prance, M Morgan, B Matthews.

Final score: 44-72.

Cadoxton v Maesteg Welfare – Carruthers
CADOXTON had a very close encounter with Maesteg Welfare in this 'Carruthers' match, with two winning and two losing rinks.

Kevin Chedgoy had the most pleasing result, with his lead Glen Solomon performing excellently, thus enabling a 10-0 lead to be opened. Two fours followed this shortly to increase the advantage to 24-6. The remaining two ends brought success for the opposition, by scoring four shots.

Don Kuhnell had a very tense struggle with his opposition, during which the scores were level on five instances throughout the game.

On the fifth occasion, the home side scored a two to level the score at 13-13, and were holding a one-shot advantage on the next end before the opposing skip, while attempting to move the shot with his last bowl, clipped his own bowl out to concede three shots.

Further advantage was then obtained by winning the next two, only to fail

with a single against on the last.

Graham Brown skipped against probably the best rink on the visitors team, made up of well-established experienced players, and struggled for most of the game, to make any impression.

In a surprising start to the game on Howard Craven's rink, an eight against on the fifth end cancelled the euphoria of a 9-0 advantage and thus enhanced the performance of the opposition, while subduing the home team.

Although these two rinks lost, they played their part in the overall success of the game, when both scored a four on the final end to give Cadoxton a seven-shot success.

P Ellis, G Davies, I Robertson, G Brown 14-22 D Lloyd, J Coke, M Trigg, P Davies.

B Knight, M Matthews, J Crout, H Craven 22-26 B Hood, R Pickard, J Summers, A Thomas.

T Bishop, L Davies, J Davies, D Kuhnell 19-14 D James, D Jones, E Jones, D Rees.

G Solomon, W Vaughan, L Cundliffe, K Chedgoy 24-10 D John, L Sparrow, M Hopkins, G Evans.

Final score: 79-72.
Cadoxton 'A' v Llantwit Major 'A' – SVL

CADOXTON 'A' ended their recent good form when they travelled to Llantwit Major and were comprehensively defeated, on all rinks.

The rink skipped by Mike Curtis trailed 5-0 after three ends, but a five on the seventh gave them an 8-7 lead.

However, they failed to score on the next six ends, which left them 10 shots down. An improvement over the remainder of the match reduced the deficit to five.

Roy Harding's four obtained a good advantage when a five took the score to 10-4, but this was overtaken over the following three ends and the home side continued to score for the rest of the match.

Derek Brook's rink never recovered from a 14-0 score-line after just four ends.

John Stewart was in contention for most of the game on his rink until seven shots were scored against one over the final five ends.

G Powell, J Maidment, I Dunbar, J Stewart 14-21 R Gray, M Jones, K Williams, E Sparks.

D Collard, S Clarke, R Cole, D Brook 13-33 E Lamb, M Mason, P Clarke, A Harvey.

K Tanner, D Tuck, A Turner, R Harding 17-25 T Wilkins, I K Alexander, R Harding, M Adams.

J Stacey, S Pycroft, G Garland, M Curtis 18-23 W Evans, K Morgan, P Twomey, E Hacker.

Final score: 97-45.

DK

Llantwit cup run is halted by Millwood

LLANTWIT MAJOR were at home for the A Cup game against Millwood.

In conditions worse than last Saturday, a strong, cold gusting wind made bowling very difficult. However, Millwood adapted to the conditions to win by 99-74.

Arthur Harvey's rink, E Lamb, M Mason and Phill Clarke, was the only rink to win after taking command at the outset after 10 ends to lead 19-7. Millwood started to improve but Llantwit stuck to the task and won 26-21.

Eric Hacker's rink, R French, K Morgan, P Twomey, despite a valiant effort, couldn't hold Millwood and went down 15-21.

Mike Adams' rink, A Wilkins, K Alexander, R Harding, had a hard game. Millwood led from the start and despite giving it their all, lost by 12 shots.

Captain Richard Gray's rink put up a good show. At the 10th end, they were leading by two, but Millwood started to improve and the final result was

15-27.

A tough game for everyone, and I suspect that everyone was glad to get off the green.

Rink scores: A Harvey 26-21; E Hacker 15-21; M Adams 18-30; R Gray 15-27.

The A Team bounce back!
LLANTWIT A were at home to Cadoxton A last Saturday for the fourth round of the cup.

What a difference from the previous Saturday, when Llantwit were hammered by Millwood.

The entire team played extremely well, winning on all rinks, beating Cadoxton by 40 shots.

Arthur Harvey's rink, E Lamb, M Mason and Phill Clarke won 33-13.

E Sparke's rink, R Gray, M Jones and Ken Williams won 21-14.

M Adams' rink, A Wilkins, K Alexander and roy Harding won 21-14.

Eric Hacker's rink, W Evans, K Morgan and P Twomey won 23-18.

A real shot in the arm after the previous Saturday's debacle.

Overall score: 102-62.



Left to right: Simon Easterby, Sarra Elgan, Nigel Owens and Jonathan Davies.

A RUGBY forum held at The Bear Hotel in Cowbridge last week proved to be an entertaining and enlightening event which raised more than £3,000 for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod 2012.

The all-star panel of rugby greats – TV pundit Jonathan Davies, former Irish international Simon Easterby and current Welsh captain Matthew Rees – were kept in check by international referee Nigel Owens and ESPN

rugby reporter Sarra Elgan.

Questions from the floor were plentiful and great banter ensued, with some carefully aimed digs by Nigel Owens.

The panellists, of course, gave as good as they got, resulting in amusing retorts and a wonderful ambience.

Siân-Elin Jones, from the Welsh St Donats area fundraising committee, said: "Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the evening. It was a wonderful line-up and a very enjoyable event."

SPORTING EVENING RAISES £3,000 FOR EISTEDDFOD 2012

All-star line-up helps kick off rugby forum in 'Scrum-V' style!

Llwyddiant i'r fforwm rygbi

ROEDD fforwm rygbi a gynhaliwyd yng Ngwesty'r Bear yn Y Bont-faen nos Iau ddiwethaf (21 Mai) yn ddigwyddiad llwyddiannus a wnaeth godi dros £3,000 tuag at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg 2012.

O dan reolaeth feistrrolgar y dyfarnwr rhyngwladol Nigel Owens a sylwebydd rygbi ESPN Sarra Elgan mi wnaeth y panel o enwogion y byd rygbi – Jonathan Davies, Simon

Easterby a Matthew Rees – roi atebion gonest a difyr i gwestiynau'r gynulleidfa.

Bu yna dipyn o dynnu coes o bryd i'w gilydd hefyd, gan greu awyrgylch hwylus iawn.

Dywedodd Siân-Elin Jones, ar ran pwyllgor apêl Llandunwyd a'r cych: "Diolch o galon i bawb wnaeth gefnogi'r digwyddiad a'i wneud yn un arbennig. Roedd gennym banelwyr o'r radd flaenaf ac roedd yn noson wych."

Classic cars on show at vehicle festival

Photographs by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk or www.ffotoimage.co.uk

(telephone 01446 773225).

Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

THERE were plenty of chances to see all manner of cars at the recent Pencoed Classic Car Show which took place at Pencoed Agricultural College.

From hot-rods to tractors, and even motorbikes, there was something for every conceivable car lover to admire!



NEWS FROM LLANTWIT MAJOR CHESS CLUB

LLANTWIT MAJOR Chess Club would like to congratulate one of its younger members, Llewelyn Brown, on being selected to play in the Vale of Glamorgan versus Cardiff match – Well done, Llewelyn!

Llantwit Major Chess Club is based at Tabernacle Church, Methodist Lane and meets on Wednesday

evenings from 7.15pm.

The club will not be meeting on June 1, as it is half-term, but restarts on Wednesday, June 8.

If anyone, of any age or ability, is interested in playing chess with us, then they are more than welcome to come along. For more details please contact Debbie on 01446 796208. DC



AP Travel Ltd to the rescue!

The E11 service currently run by EST from Cowbridge to Talbot Green via Ystradowen and Llaharry will cease to run on Saturday May 28, but AP Travel have been successful in securing this service and say there will be little or no disruption or inconvenience to passengers.

"Fortunately for passengers on this service, AP Travel intend to run to the same timetable and ticket price with a view to applying to extend the timetable in the evenings. We look forward to welcoming existing and new passengers to their service," a spokesperson said.

Action-packed summer lies ahead for WI!

LLANBLETHIAN WI NEWS

THIS month was the resolutions discussion meeting, as for all WIs in Britain, but there was a certain amount of Institute business to be discussed first, and there is so much going on of a social and sporting nature that this took some time to transact!

Members will be going to Eardisley village festival this summer, to Blenheim Palace and to Leeds Castle. Lunch in a local brasserie, several craft

competitions and coach trips to places of beauty and interest were among other social events planned before we turned our attention to discussion of this year's national Resolutions, to be formally debated in Liverpool this year.

There was a great deal of well-informed and heartfelt discussion on the two topics of mega farm development and closure of libraries.

The Resolutions which make it to final selection are always of interest and importance to members, but the challenge for selectors is to choose what also matters to the wider society – to 'home and country', as the original motto of the Women's Institute declares.

A musical quiz lightened the mood after tea and the competition was won by Connie Sanders with her pig.

Next month's meeting will take place at 7.30pm in the church hall as usual, for those of us not going on the Blenheim Palace trip.

GLT

Messy crafts

ON May 31, the Berwyn Centre, Nantymoel, will hold a messy crafts afternoon for children up to 11.

All children under eight must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times.

Tel: 01656 754915 or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk/be-rwyn for full details.

WE ARE NOW ON FACEBOOK!
Find us at facebook.com/gemnews

Cheeky boy!



JUST CHEEKY!

BRIDGEND Cat Adoption Centre (01656 726 621) would like GEM readers to meet Cheeky, a real cheeky chappie!

He is 14 years old but doesn't look or act it. He has recently had an operation but is now ready and waiting for a new home.

This time of year there are lots of kittens available so some of the older cats do get overlooked, please don't let this gent be one of them.

Meet William!



JUST WILLIAM!

THIS WEEK: William is a seven-year-old lurcher. He is a lovely boy, who just loves fuss and cuddles!

He would like to be the only dog in the home and he loves his food, and is very easy to train – he will be a delight with the right owner.

If you would like to offer William a home, visit the Dogs Trust at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, or call on 01656 725219. You can see William and some of his friends at www.dogstrust.org.uk



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Out and About with The GEM

JOHNNY DEPP SHINES IN WHAT IS AN OTHERWISE DULL PIRATE ADVENTURE

FOR a film that breezed in like a breath of fresh air, there was something of a smell of dead fish by the time the third instalment of the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise set sail in 2007.

What had been exciting became cumbersome as the film became more concerned with the intricacies of storytelling, as opposed to creating thrills and excitement.

However, the financial side of things was more than rosy, leading to a predictable fourth outing hinted at the end of the third part.

This time round, the film, entitled *On Stranger Tides*, follows Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and Barbossa (Geoffrey Rush) on their quest for the fountain of youth – a quest that is threatened by the infamous Blackbeard (Ian McShane) and his daughter Angelica (Penelope Cruz), who have their own history

with Sparrow...

Anyone expecting that this fourth instalment in the *Pirates*... franchise will take a radical departure from what has gone before will certainly feel let down, as *On Stranger Tides* is very much business as usual.

Sadly, the same applies to the over-wrought narratives of the latter instalments and a general underwhelming feeling that means it is a case of 'same old' for a franchise looking as though its sea legs have been left on dry land.

Only the most soured of people would deny the entertainment value of Johnny Depp as Jack Sparrow, and certainly the actor again delivers, the roguish character giving Depp plenty to play with.

However, even the most generous viewer would say that fourth time around the actor is starting to tread water ever so slightly, his performance made all the more entertaining by the lack of quality elsewhere.

While Geoffrey Rush offers a decent turn as Sparrow's nemesis

SCREEN TALK



by GARETH JAMIESON

Captain Barbossa (mainly because his character has actually developed as the films have gone on), Penelope Cruz fails to bring the requisite passion as Angelica – her chemistry with Depp falling flat, while Ian McShane is given little to work with as Blackbeard, managing to wring out a hint of dastardly nature, but little else.

Perhaps the finger pointing and plank-walking should be saved for Ted Elliott and Terry Rossio, the screenwriters who have been with franchise since day one.

The first film was dripping with derring-do and spectacle, but the latter two films found themselves weighed under by an unwieldy narrative.

While they really misstep with the introduction of two characters (Sam Claflin's Philip and Astrid-Berges-Frisbey's Syrena) whose subplot is dull in the extreme, there is so much double-crossing and narrative confusion going on that you spend most of your time wondering just who is doing what.

Coupled with Rob Marshall's direction, it does very little that Gore Verbinski's time in the director's chair didn't, and the end result is a film that while a step-up from the dull and dense sequels, is still a disappointing outing.

That even Johnny

Depp is starting to look tired and ordinary as Captain Jack is a worrying sign, and if *On Stranger Tides* is to be the tipping point for more additions to the franchise, there is some serious work to be done.

VERDICT – A poor outing from a franchise that seemingly offered so much, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* is a weak effort all round, with even Johnny Depp's effervescent Captain Jack Sparrow slipping into the ensemble.

While it retains a level of spectacle that delivers the odd thrill, it very rarely soars higher, making this a disappointing return for these *Pirates*. Poor.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, *The Mask of Zorro*.

Cottrell Park hosts Armed Forces Day golf competition

Cottrell Park will be hosting their second Armed Forces Day golf competition on Wednesday, June 22, in support of the National Armed Forces Day.

The golf competition is open to all current serving Armed Forces Personnel, Reserve Forces, Veterans, Cadets and personnel working within the MOD.

The day will feature an individual competi-

tion, sponsored by the Royal British Legion and a team competition consisting of teams of four players.

Both Cottrell Park golf courses (Mackintosh and Button) will be used concurrently for the competition with tee off times commencing at 12 noon.

The cost is £25 per person and will include coffee and bacon roll on arrival, 18 holes of golf and to finish the day off a hog roast buffet and prizes for the lucky winners.

The main organiser of the competition, Dave Morris, who is a retired

army officer, said: "It is a real privilege to be involved in Armed Forces Day, I believe it is extremely important that we have a day to recognise, celebrate, and honour all our servicemen and women who serve and have served our country."

Anyone interested in taking part can log onto www.armedforcesday-wales.co.uk and follow the links to download the application form or contact Dave Morris on 01446772043 or email: daveptmorrison@tiscali.co.uk.

CP

Napoleonic battle at Cosmeston!

THE next event at Cosmeston medieval village from May 29-30 takes visitors back to the 19th century when Britain fought Napoleonic France.

Cosmeston becomes a 'Spanish village' taken over by the marauding French, but then with the roar of cannon, the crash of musket and glistening bayonet, the village is liberated by the Duke of Wellington's redcoats and green jacketed riflemen, as seen on the Sharpe television series.

Throughout the day, visitors will be able to see history come alive as Spanish peasants and freedom fighters, French soldiers and British redcoats show life as it was lived almost 200 years ago.

There will be cooking, drill displays, how to fire a musket and the site and smell and feel of French and British military camps.

The final event will be a battle as the British attempt to liberate the villagers!

Making faces exhibition



One of Christian John Olsen's 'Masks' series.

ARTIST Christian John Olsen's third Travellers Gallery one-man exhibition – 'Making Faces', is open from May 31 to July 7, mornings, Mondays to Fridays.

He explores two themes: Masks, looking at inherited family characteristics and Pretty Ugly, exploring the impact of the media on body self image.

For more information contact Mind in the Vale (Registered Charity no. 1066411) on 01446 730792, or visit www.mindinthevale.org.uk and www.voga.org.uk.

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service (Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru) will be holding donor sessions in the area next month as follows:

JUNE 10: Mobile donation Clinic, Tesco Stores, Castle Street, Maesteg – 10.45am-1.45pm and 3.15pm-6.30pm.

To attend this session, it is advisable to make an appointment as these donors will take priority. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one.

JUNE 14: Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry – 10am-6pm.

To view a comprehensive list of all the blood donation sessions, please visit www.welshblood.or.uk or call 0800 252266.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D671.

● The rollover, which now stands at £3,000, was not won this week.

● £2,000: 525021.

● £10: 274199.

342026; 718520; 642869; 785739; 546307; 695061; 337848; 745724; 349128; 496124; 132591; 433631; 610079; 284046; 376921; 282293; 340675; 664139; 832429.

● £5: 513529;

625463; 871174; 951426;

608613; 143576; 459729;

378880; 800214; 598606;

403066; 728596; 700672;

299562; 287743; 283441;

515316; 752617; 457929;

786428; 223453; 820734;

976792; 617510; 625412;

563618; 621418; 181616;

171239; 262250; 585095;

766822; 834075; 315163;

851886; 171499; 431188;

329920; 100250; 906229;

394694; 521192; 729702;

178366; 592804; 255377;

629406; 117661; 112642; 523143; 877426; 126082; 369934; 588586; 584926; 195295; 515574; 688634; 867859; 358406.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

GOLDEN BALL

BRITISH HEART Foundation Cymru will be holding a 50th anniversary Golden Ball at Cardiff Castle on Saturday, June 25.

Contact fundraising manager Sharon Own on 02920 382408 or email owens@bhf.org.uk.

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Election Anniversary Community Meetings		
26th May	Wenwae Community Centre	7.30 – 8.30pm
2nd June	St Brides Village Hall	8.00 – 9.00pm
3rd June	Llenser Hall, Cowbridge	5.30 – 6.45pm
	Llanfowr Village Hall	7.15 – 8.15pm
11th June	Community Hall, Peterstone-super-Ely	10.00 – 11.30am
	St Nicholas Village Hall	12.00 – 1.00pm
17th June	Lee Hall, Dinas Powys	5.30 – 7.00pm
	Llanfair Primary School	7.30 – 8.30pm
1st July	The Gathering Place, St Athan	5.00 – 6.30pm
2nd July	Llanfowr Hall, Llanfowr Major	11.00 – 12.30pm
8th July	Rhoose Community Centre	6.00 – 7.30pm
	Barley Mow, Graig Penllyn	8.00 – 9.00pm
19th July	Pendragon Village Hall	6.00 – 7.00pm
	The Star Inn, Treos	8.00 – 9.00pm
20th July	The Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes	6.30 – 7.30pm
	The Sycamore, Colweston	8.00 – 9.00pm
21st July	Oriel Room, Memorial Hall, Barry	6.30 – 8.00pm

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Gold Coast and Cotswold 25 kilos **£3.05 a bag**

Pebbles, Cobbles and Rockery Stone – Prices Vary

Membrane Ground Cover (20 metre rolls) **£8.99**

CALOR GAS AGENTS

Out and About with The GEM

ENJOY AN EVENING WITH MOZART IN ST HILARY CHURCH



The performers who will be celebrating the genius of Mozart at St Hilary Church.

ON Sunday, June 12 at 7pm, St Hilary Church choir are joining senior students from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to celebrate the genius of Mozart.

In a concert of inspired choral and instrumental music, Rebecca Sands, Grace Wain, Eleias Roberts and Christian Jenkins, star students from the college's opera course, will be soloists in the magni-

ficent *Coronation Mass*, and Jennifer Wright on the French horn has chosen the most famous of Mozart's concertos for her instrument, the fourth.

The concert, to be held at St Hilary Church, also includes perennial favourites *Ave Verum Corpus*, *Rondo a la Turca*, and the *Musical Joke*.

Tickets can be obtained in Cowbridge from Sorrento, WG Davies, David Barnes Dry Cleaners and members of the choir.

Solo piece dedicated to Porthceri

LOCAL musician and sound artist Chris Young performs his solo piece 'AcouChristo' in the Porthceri Centre on May 27-28.

The piece, especially written for the Porthceri Centre space, will begin at 8.30pm to allow the gathering darkness to give the lighting its full effect.

Entry is free but donations to the Porthceri Centre are welcome.

A spokesman for the Porthceri Centre group said: "We decided to go ahead with the performance in the centre, even though the building has been sold."

"We want to assure the community that we're going ahead with our plans for an arts and Welsh-language centre and are bidding for the URC Windsor Road building."

"Chris has been associated with the group and we were thrilled that he has written something so special to us as part of his Masters final showcase – he's a very talented guy!"

PACT meetings

BUTTRILLS PACT, June 6 in the Philip John Community Room, Barry Library at 6.30pm.

ST BRIDES PACT, St Brides Church Hall, June 8 at 6pm.

YSTRADOWN Coffee & Chat, the White Lion public house, June 7 at 11.30am.

PLYMOUTH PACT, Brockhill Way Community Centre, June 1 at 7pm.

SULLY PACT, the Williams Room of the Old School, South Road, June 13 at 7pm.

What's on and where?

Rhoose meeting

RHOOSE and District History Society will meet at 6.30pm this Friday (May 27) in Rhoose Community Hall, preceded by the AGM, when paid-up members will vote for a new committee to include president, chairman, secretary, treasurer, programme secretary, events secretary and archivist.

This month's speaker will be Mr Ron Powell, who will give a talk at 7.30pm, entitled 'The Charge of the Light Brigade'.

Entrance to the meeting will be £1 for adults, which will include a raffle ticket. Visitors welcome. Membership is £4 per annum.

Joshua night

ON Saturday (May 28) Laura Owens and Hannah Yarr, pupils at Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, are hosting a charity night to raise funds towards the 'Oz Experience', a project run by the Joshua Foundation, to provide young people with the opportunity to change the lives of children with terminal cancer.

It will be held at the Café Continental, Barry Island. Music will be provided by local band The Anderson Connection, and, for one night only, a special variety act by Kevin Owens and Haydn Stait – not to be missed.

Anyone interested in donating anything to the raffle or bidding on the auction should contact Neil on 07828 714845.

Parachute drop

THE final countdown has begun to a sponsored Teddy Bear parachute jump at St Cadoc's Church, Cadoxton, Barry, on Sunday (May 29) at 2pm.

There will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear. Proceeds will go to the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoe-box appeal.

Beach clean

BARRY-BASED environmental group 'Friends of Barry Beaches' will meet for a beach clean at the Watchtower Bay on May 30 at 3pm (by the Watchtower roundabout) for one hour cleaning the beach.

At the April beach clean on Knap Beach, eight bags of recycling and five bags of rubbish were collected by 17 volunteers.

Thrift shop

THE Thrift Shop, Woodpecker Square, St Athan, will be closed for the half-term school holidays from 1.30pm on May 30 to 10am on June 6.

Charity flower arranging night

COWBRIDGE and District Flower Arrangers Club's next demonstration is by Beryl Griffiths.

It takes place in Cowbridge Town Hall on Wednesday, June 1, at 7.30pm.

Doors open from 6.30pm to 7.15pm. Tickets (£6) are available at the door, and there is a raffle of arrangements in aid of Ty Hafan.

CAOS scoop!

LLANTWIT Major is set to meet the West End after Cowbridge Amateur Operatic Society secured the rights to perform a lost gem by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

The musical show tells the story of Dr Barnardo and his work to rescue children living on the streets.

Curtain up is on June 1-4 at 7.30pm (Saturday matinee, 2.30pm) in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School.

Contact www.cowbridgeaos.org.uk or telephone 01446 773169.

Valeways walks

ON Sunday, June 5, at 2.30pm, 'From St Tydfil's to Agatha Christie' starting from St Tydfil's Church, Llyswoyney (map ref SS 962 741).

On Monday, June 6 at 7pm, parks and cliffs, starting from All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry.

Thursday, June 9 at 1.30pm, Cwm George mystery trail, starting from St Peter's Church, Mill Road, Dinas Powys; 7pm-9.15pm, inland from Llantwit Major (extended walk, flat and easy), starting from Llantwit Major Railway Station car park.

Age Concern coffee morning

AGE Concern's Western Vale Good Neighbour Scheme is holding its annual coffee morning on June 9 at the Llantorian Hall, Boverton Road, Llantwit Major from 10am-12pm.

Admission is £1.50 and includes coffee, tea and biscuits – plus top-ups, there will be a variety of stalls, from home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, plants and a raffle. Proceeds go towards the Good Neighbour Scheme, based at 1 Commercial Street, Llantwit Major.

Telephone 01446 795549/795632 for further information.

Legion benefit

THE Mayor of the Vale, Coun John Clifford, is hosting a garden party on June 10 to mark the Royal British Legion's 90th birthday in the marquee at Dyffryn Gardens from 2pm-5pm.

Tickets are £7.50 each, which will include afternoon tea and entry to the gardens. Proceeds to the British Legion. Contact the Mayor's office on 01446 709301.

Tell us what's on and where in your area - email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

ST DONATS ARTS CENTRE

Friday 3rd June, 7.30pm
PIAF ~ the songs
Eve Loiseau sings the songs of Edith Piaf with Eddy Jay, accordion and Fiona Barrow, fiddle

COMPETITION
in conjunction with **Glamorgan GEM**

3 lucky readers to win a pair of FREE TICKETS
(valued at £32 per pair)

JUST ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTION CORRECTLY:
WHAT NATIONALITY WAS EDITH PIAF?
A) German B) Dutch C) French

Please e-mail your answer to enquiries@stdonats.com no later than Tuesday 31st May

Box Office: 01446 799100
Minicore: 01446 799102
enquiries@stdonats.com

On-line booking:
www.stdonats.com
St Donats Arts Centre, St Donats Castle, Vale of Glamorgan CF11 1TF

OCEAN LOUNGE PORKERRY

OPEN SATURDAY & SUNDAY LUNCHTIMES
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS
WITH FULL FOOD MENU AVAILABLE
LUNCHTIMES & EVENINGS
CHILDREN'S MENU AVAILABLE

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND
Friday 27th May
Live Entertainment
Saturday 28th May
The Sunsets - Rock N Roll
Band plus Bingo
Sunday 29th May
Jeff Alvey Award winning Comedian followed by Disco

Sunday Roast £6.95
in the Ocean Lounge Bar
Choice of meats, Seasonal Vegetables,
Home-made desserts from only £1.99
Booking Advisable

CAR BOOT SALE
EVERY SUNDAY from 2pm and
To find us - click directions @ www.firejoust.com
Ample Parking - Coaches Welcome
Tel. 01446 710362/711538

Margam Country Park

Children's Fairytale Land - Margam Railway
Adventure Playground - Farm Trail with Pets Corner
Margam Deer Herd - Countryside with Great Views
Eighteenth Century Orangery and Tudor Gothic Mansion
Open 10am to 5pm daily • Free Entry • Car Parking £3.50 per day

Monday, 30th May Bank Holiday, Pirates and Princesses Family Fun Day
Shiver me timbers! Join in with the pirates and princesses. Pirate shows, princess storytelling and meet our very own Captain Jack Sparrow. Don't forget to come in your best pirate and princess costumes. A great family day out. Adults £5.50, children and OAPs £4.50, family (2+3) £20.
Full programme of half term family activities, check the park web pages for a full list:
Saturday 4th-Sunday 5th June - Margam Kite Festival and Margam Model Boat Club Show
The Kite Festival of Wales - Bring your kite along and join in the fun! Kites of all shapes and sizes.

FREE Family Activity days for the school summer holidays
www.margamcountrypark.co.uk
The fun never stops at Margam Country Park!

Situations Vacant

Sensory Garden Co-ordinator

Location: Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry.
Salary: £15,000 per annum
Hours: 30 hours per week

Brief description of post:

To co-ordinate and support work of community volunteers engaged in Sensory Garden activities inclusive of any training needs and to collaborate with partner agencies in the promotion of the garden as a resource for learning and environmental awareness.

To provide support to the Sensory Garden Management Group in the development of the overall aims and objectives of the garden.

Closing date: **9th June 2011**
 Interview date: To be advised

For an informal chat and/or application pack please contact:

Eileen Moore
Drop In Centre 01446 403549

Please note: This post may be subject to Criminal Records Bureau check

Please return completed application forms to the Sensory Garden Management Group at the Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry. CF63 4JY



Cydylnudd Gardd Synhwyraidd

Leoliad: Drop In Centre, 3, Dunlin Court Barry.
Cyflog: £15,000 y flwyddyn
Oriau: 30 awr yr wythnos

Disgrifiad byr o'r swydd:

I cydyllu a cefnogi gwrifodolwyr cymunedol sydd i'w wneud a'r ardd. Yn cynnwys anghenion hyfforddiant, delio a asiantaethau mewn partneriaeth i hybu'r ardd fel adnodd i ddysgu ag I godi ymwybyddiaeth yr amgylchedd.

I roi cymorth i Grwp Rheoli Gardd Synhwyraidd er mwyn i ddatblygu i gyfarfod yr amcanion

Dyddiad Cau: **9th Mehefin 2011**
 Dyddiad Cyfnewid: i'w drefnu

Am sgwrs anffurfiol a/neu ffurflen gais cysylltwch a: **Eileen Moore**
Drop In Centre 01446 403549

Nodwch: Fe all yr apwyntiad yma ddibynnu ar archwiliad Criminal Records Bureau.

Furflenni gais i'w ddychwyd i: **Grwp Rheoli Gardd Synhwyraidd, Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, CF63 4JY**



Centre Manager

Location: Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Office Base: 3 Dunlin Court, Barry

Salary: £17,000 per annum

Hours: 37 hours per week

Brief description of post:

To undertake day to day management of the community centre inclusive of line management to centre staff. To work with relevant partner agencies in support of activities for the benefit of centre users

Closing date: **9th June 2011**
 Interview date: To be advised

For an informal chat and/or application pack please contact:

Eileen Moore
Drop In Centre
01446 403549

Please note: This post may be subject to Criminal Records Bureau check

Please return completed application forms to Castleland Community Association C/O Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, CF63 4JY



Rheolwr Ganolfan

Leoliad: Canolfan Cymunedol Castleland, Belvedere Crescent, Barry.

Safle Swyddfa: 3 Dunlin Court, Barry

Cyflog: £17,000 y flwyddyn

Oriau: 37 awr yr wythnos

Disgrifiad byr o'r swydd:

I rheoli'r ganolfan gymunedol o dydd i ddydd, yn cynnwys rheoli gweithwyr, gweithio mewn partneriaeth efo asiantaethau perthnasol eraill er mwyn lles y ganolfan a'i defnyddwyr.

Dyddiad Cau: **9th Mehefin 2011**
 Dyddiad Cyfnewid: i'w drefnu

Am sgwrs anffurfiol a/neu ffurflen gais cysylltwch a: **Eileen Moore**
Cadeirydd
01446.403549

Nodwch: Fe all yr apwyntiad yma ddibynnu ar archwiliad Criminal Records Bureau

Furflenni gais i'w ddychwyd i: **Castleland Community Association C/O Drop In Centre, 3 Dunlin Court, Barry, CF63 4JY**



Property

TO LET

Barry Town Centre
 Rooms available in shared house. Starting from £60 per week.
 DSS accepted.
Tel: 07896 013563

TO LET

Llantwit Major Double Room & Single Room
 To Let in modern 3 bedroom house. All utilities inc. phone shared, WiFi.
Call 07740 187613

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern
 I, **Sian Thomas George** do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the variation of a Premises Licence at **Plough & Harrow, Monkash, Cowbridge, CF71 7QQ** known as **Plough & Harrow Public House**.

The application is to vary the licence, change of name and designated premises supervisor and change of opening hours.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of this application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.

Signed S. Thomas George
 Date: 24th May, 2011

TO LET BRIDGEND Modern Industrial/Storage/Workshops Rents from £150 per week 07850 204481

TO LET BARRY ISLAND

Luxury two bedroom loft style apartment within easy access of beach and parks. Sea views. Fully furnished, secure parking. Entry phone system. Bond & references required.
 No DSS - Over 26 only.
£525pcm
Tel: 07912 138342

Sited Containers in Secure Yard

20ft x 8ft for rent
 £20 per week,
 Barry Docks area.
 Also furnished office at premises £15 per week
Tel: 07966 531506

Family Notices

Cecil ENGLAND

The family of the late Cecil England would like to thank the Cowbridge community for their support and messages of sympathy following Cecil's death, at the age of 95, on May 7.

Cecil lived in Cowbridge for almost 50 years and during this time was involved in many community organisations including Rotary, Probud, the Bowling Club, the History Society, the Gardening Club, Friends of Dyffryn and the Physic Garden.

Cecil's contribution to these organisations and the friends he made in Cowbridge enriched his life. He will be sadly missed.

HOUSE Beryl Mary

Peacefully on May 17 at The Court Care Home, St Fagans, Beryl, formerly of Portcawl.

Beloved wife of the late Alex, dearly-loved sister of the late Emlyn and Jack Williams of Wenvoe, will be sadly missed by all her family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wednesday June 1, service and cremation 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to the Stroke Association, c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhosce CF62 3DZ.



Avril Rose GARRETT (née Cridland)

Karen and Michael, the daughter and son of Avril Rose Garrett, who passed away on April 24, would like to express our gratitude for the kindness shown to us after the death of our mother.

We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received, messages of condolence and the donations to the Marie Curie hospice in Penarth.

Many who knew her have conveyed to us that she was an honourable and respected lady, who always had a smile on her face and this makes us proud to have called her our mother. Special thanks to the members of Tabernacle, Llanilltud Fawr, who she always referred to as her other family. Tabernacle have always been there with support and sound advice for us.

We are also very grateful to William James and Son, Fonmon, who arranged the funeral service. Her deep faith in God remained until the end, and she died with dignity. Interment will be at Tabernacle, Llanilltud Fawr.

Rest in peace, Mam. Diolch o galon i bawb.

LOADER Bernard George

On May 22, 2011 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bernard, loving husband of Carol, much loved father and grandfather, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral Service at Holy Cross Church Cowbridge on Wednesday, 1 June 2011 at 11am, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only, donations in lieu to the British Lung Foundation (BLF), 73-75 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7ER.

Funeral Directors

W. A. Brown & Son Funeral Directors

Contactable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

• Funeral pre-payment plans • Memorial masonry

Llantwit Major 01446 792489

Pembroke House, College Street

Est 1946 - 24 hour Service

W. H. PREENE & SON INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

PRIVATE CHAPEL OF REST
 PRE-PAID FUNERAL PLAN AVAILABLE

54 MAIN STREET, CADOXTON
 Telephone 01446 420520

Cadoxton Funeral Home

Reverend William Jenkin FIELD (Bill)

Peacefully at home on May 18, 2011, William, beloved husband of Catherine, much-loved father of Carole and son-in-law Jack, cherished Gramps of Peter and Tracey, Catherine and Alun, also a loved Grampa BO to Spencer, Stephen and Stephanie.

Bill will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service on May 27, 2011, at All Saints Church, Barry at 10am, followed by interment at Llanrcarf Churchyard. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu if so desired for Marie Curie Cancer Hospice, Penarth c/o the funeral home.

Birthdays

Happy 21st Birthday 29th May, 2011 JAMES AUSTIN

Have a nice day!
 Lots of love,
 Nanny Mavis and Grampa Fred. XXX



Thank You

Tina & Derek Rowlands

would like to thank their children, grandchildren, family and friends for making their Ruby Wedding Anniversary such a happy and memorable occasion.

Once again, thank you for your cards and presents.

Articles For Sale

Smeg Dishwasher

Free standing, stainless steel, complete with waste. Buyer to collect £100 ono.
Tel: 01446 710778

TENT Easy Camp Selnro Sleeps 6, unused £80 ono.

Beko Dishwasher
 Hardly used £95 ono
Tel: 01446 776834

Brooks Stairlift

Fits any typical straight staircase, 4 months old as new. Price includes delivery and installation by Acorn engineer.
£1,000
Tel: 01446 792095

Fluval Aquarium

100cm x 40cm, with stand, filter pump, heat lamps etc. Immaculate £295 ono
Trampoline With safety encl, 12ft, as new £175 ono
Tel: 01446 776834

Pine Corner Vanity Unit

with basin & taps - £120 ono
 Dural pine drinks cabinet with three drawers - £80 ono
 Beautiful pieces of Priority furniture at various prices, please ring for further details
Tel: 01656 861557

Bosch Larder Fridge

H 85cm x W 55cm
 Depth 62cm
 Good as new £50.
Ikea Odda Corner
 Single Bed plus underbed, mattresses included £100.
 Buyer collects.
Tel: 01446 711305

Lost & Found

LOST TEIFI DRIVE, BARRY Black & White Male Cat

Missing since 19th May 2011.
Tel: 01446 747697

OAK TABLE

30 inches long, 48 inches wide, drop sides, buyer collects.
£45
Tel. 01446 710573

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Are you:
 • Fun • Friendly
 • Creative • Ambitious
 with Salon experience
 Be part of it:
 Photoshoots, Fashion Shows, Continual Training Opportunities and more...
Call 01446 775522

THE BUSH INN St. Hilary requires Full and Part Time FRONT OF HOUSE STAFF

Experience and personality a must!
 Please apply with CV to **bushinn@btinternet.com**

barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
portcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

MAY FAYRE IS A SUCCESS FOR THE LIONS – DESPITE PORTHCAWL’S GALE-FORCE WINDS

PHOTOGRAPHS by
KEITH E MORGAN

THE Porthcawl Lions’ May Day fayre was again held this year in the grounds of The Rest Hotel

Weather-wise, it was a sunny day but with strong gale force winds. During the previous night, two of the marquees had been blown away and on the day, it was extremely difficult to hold the remaining marquees and tents down.

The fayre was formally opened by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Coun Mary Emmment-Lewis, who visited every stall and also judged the PAWS (Porthcawl Animal Welfare Society) dog show.

The master of ceremonies was Porthcawl Lion David Richards.

Despite the windy conditions, there was a good turn-out and the event was clearly enjoyed by all.

Entertainment came from the Cornelly Jazz Band and the 360 Squadron ATC Band from Loughor.



The Macmillan Cancer Support stall stood out, thanks to its bright green colour scheme!



ABOVE: The Loughor 360 Squadron ATC Band



Norah and Michael Clarke with a dog which is being trained as a guide dog.



ABOVE: Ralph Anslow of Porthcawl Lions with the mayor.



The Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild stall.



LEFT: Some of the winners in the dog show.

ABOVE: Bridgend Samaritans had no worries about their van blowing away.

LEFT: Ralph Anslow with RNLI members on their stall.



Volunteers from the Kidney Research Unit for Wales Foundation, Porthcawl branch.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 1 June 2011

Vale of Glamorgan Council Vale of Glamorgan Housing Association Newydd Housing Association
United Welsh Vale and Tŷfedd Housing Association

To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at
HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARTHUR DAVIES COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1039567
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets
• Studio apartment
• First floor (no lift)
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Warden/parking
• Communal entrance
Rent £99.73 per week including service charge

AWBERY HOUSE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 201276
Suitable for a single person, couple or family - no pets
• 2 x Two-bedroom flats
• First and second floors
• Lift available
• Central heating
• Double glazing
Rent £79.13 per week including service charges

BROUGHTON PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 202610
Suitable for a family
• Three-bed house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £90.10 per week including water charges

CWRT EIRLYS, BARRY

H4U reference 1069869
Suitable for a small family
• Two-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £75.50 per week

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U reference 208534
Suit. for a single person or couple - no pets
• One bedroom flat
• Ground floor
• Central heating
• Double glazing
Rent £90.10 per week including water charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 209175
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £89.82 per week including water charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 209216
Suitable for a family with 4+ children
• Four-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £92.44 per week including water charges

GLYNDWR ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 251477
Suitable for a family
• Three-bedroom flat
• Upstairs
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £78.12 per week including service charges

HANOVER COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1069905
Suitable for a single person or couple over 60 (55 with medical need)
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Manager and alarm
Rent £88.54 per week including service charges

HAYES ROAD, SULLY

H4U reference 1069870
Suitable for a small family
• Two-bedroom house
• Gas central heating
• Double glazing
• Enclosed gardens
Rent £71.72 per week including service charges

LALESTON CLOSE, BARRY

H4U reference 214168
Suitable for a family
• Two-bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £89.96 per week including water charges

**Are you a council tenant?
Are you looking to move into
smaller accommodation?**

If you are a single person or couple occupying a two, three or four-bedroom house, you may be eligible to join the Incentive to Move scheme.

If you are willing to downsize into a smaller (one-bedroom) property, and are eligible to move, as part of the scheme we will:

- assist you through the key stages of your move;
- arrange and carry out removals for you;
- advise whether you can claim back necessary costs, such as disconnection and reconnection of services (up to £500); and
- advise whether you could qualify for a cash incentive to move of up to £2000.

If you are interested, and would like to know more, call the HOMES4U Hotline 01446 709840.

LLANDINAM ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 251568
Suit. for a family (not with mobility needs)
• Three-bedroom flat
• Ground floor (steps)
• Central heating
• Double-glazing
• Gardens
Rent £78.12 per week including service charges

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 216192
Suitable for a family
• Two bedroom house
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
Rent £87.45 per week including water charges

PARDOE CRESCENT, BARRY

H4U Reference 219170
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 (not with mobility needs)
• One-bedroom bungalow
• Central heating
• Double glazing
• Gardens
• Community alarm
Rent £79.42 pw including water and alarm charges

THOMAS COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1062179
Suitable for a single person or couple with mobility needs over 40
• One-bedroom flat
• Ground floor
• Gas central heating
• Double-glazing
• Parking
Rent £70.11 per week including service charge

TY GWENFO, BARRY

H4U Reference 975962
Suitable for a single person over 40
• One-bedroom flat
• First floor (no lift)
• Gas central heating
• Double-glazing
• Parking
Rent £71.02 per week including service charge

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Newydd is a charitable housing association



**Are you having difficulty paying your rent?
Are bills getting too much?**

The Vale of Glamorgan is offering a new Money Advice service for council tenants.

To make an appointment to see a Money Advisor, call 01446 709312 or ask at Housing Reception.

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cowslip Drive	123	Gold	06/05/10
Cert Malin Y Rhos	35	Silver+	11/04/11
St Barucha Court	14	Bronze	22/04/11
Ty Gwenfa	20	Silver	05/07/10
Philippe Freeth Ct	12	Gold+	06/04/11
Westbury Close	67	Gold	31/05/11





Mallory Close, St Athan
2 Double Bedrooms
End Of Link House
No Onward Chain

Call Simon 01446 791963

£94,999



Eagleswell Road, Llantwit Major
3 Bedrooms
Middle Link House
Updating Required

Call Simon 01446 791963

£105,000



Walnut Grove, St Athan
3 Bedrooms Plus Attic Room
Well Proportioned
Conservatory

Call Simon 01446 791963

£121,950



Chris Davies



Pantycelyn Place, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
End Of Link Home
21' Lounge/Diner

Call Simon 01446 791963

£137,500



Drake Close, St Athan
3 Bedrooms
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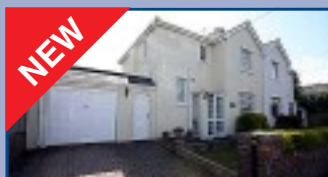
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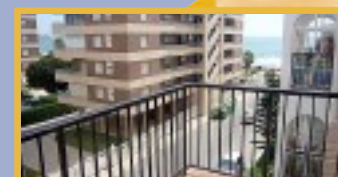
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05	BMW 320 Diesel SE. In silver with cd, alloys, a/c, nice example but high example	£5,495
54	TOYOTA RAV4 2.0VVTi XT3. In silver, 89,000 miles, 2 owners with leather trim	REDUCED BY £500 TO £5,495
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The runners-up with their prizes.
THE ladies of Cottrell Park enjoyed their visit to the Bowood Golf Resort, for the Lady Captain's away day on Monday, May 16.
 The day remained dry but there was a blustery wind which made the conditions a little difficult. The course was long, with numerous bunkers, which made it extremely challenging.
 A team Stableford was played, together with an individual Stableford for the Miss Button trophy. The team competition was won by Sara Williams, Tina Morgan and Jayne James, and second were Jeanette Williams, Angela Padfield, and Chris Evans.
 The Miss Button trophy was won by Sara Williams, and runner-up was Bridget Roberts.
 Nearest the pin was Sandra Collin and the longest drive (handicap 0-26) was Kay Bradbury, (handicap 27-36) was Jan Cosby.
 The prizes were presented by Jenny McGlyne (lady captain) ably assisted by Mary Watkins (competition secretary).
 Jenny McGlyne was thanked for her excellent organisation of the day. The ladies returned home tired but happy after a very enjoyable outing. CB

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Cowbridge under-8s brave the rainstorm



YOUNG PLAYER'S SUCCESS!

LEFT: Jake Williams pictured with the player of the tournament trophy



Cowbridge under-8 Cowboys squad

COWBRIDGE under-8s played in the Kidwelly RFC tournament earlier this month and took two teams – the Cowboys and the Indians.

The Cowbridge Cowboys started their games against home team Kidwelly Ambers. Though there was a considerable amount of excellent running rugby, defences came out on top, with the game ending in a nil-nil stalemate.

In the second game, they beat Fishguard Seagulls by three tries to one with Jake Williams scoring two tries and Charlie Locke one.

Charlie's try followed an excellent, passing movement and both of Jake's tries were the result of his ability to take short passes at pace and then run at superb angles. The Seagulls' try was a consolation in the last move of the game.

The third game saw the boys defeat Skewen by three tries to nil, though the win followed excellent defence to keep Skewen out at the beginning. David Harris scored two tries and Jake one.

In the last group game, the Cowboys lost by five tries to one to Carmarthen Quins, though this was not at all representative of how the boys played during the course of the game. Jake again scored an excellent individual try. Notwithstanding this loss, the boys progressed to the semi-

finals of the main competition having been the runners-up in their group.

In horrendous conditions, they played the winners of the other group, Crymmych, in the semi-final. Though the game was even in the first five minutes, Jake Williams scored two tries and despite Crymmych pulling one back, this was enough to enable the Cowboys to get through to their first final.

There was, literally, a bit of a dampener on it as the heavens opened and May's rainfall fell in the space of about half an hour, causing everybody connected with the Cowbridge teams to huddle under a quickly erected gazebo.

None of this affected the boys' spirits and they were extremely unlucky to lose the final, which was a superb game, to Carmarthen Quins by two tries to one. The boys showed that this time there was nothing between the two teams.

Getting to the final and being presented with finalists' medals was richly deserved by a team of boys who always turn up for training and work hard week in week out.

Jake was presented with the 'player of the tournament' award.

Cowboys squad: Ioan Davies, David Harris, Robbie Hawkins, Harri Howkins, Oliver Jarmain, Aled Leitch, Charlie Locke, Jack Reilly, Harry Whittaker and Jake Williams.

JS

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- 03 53 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2.0 2-dr convertible. In aquarius blue with anthracite interior, air con, electronic stability programme traction control system, alloy wheels, only 78,653 miles.....£6,995
- 03 53 HONDA Civic 1.6 Vtec SE Sport 3-Dr Hatchback. In Aqua green, half black leather interior, air con, alloy wheels, heated electric mirrors, CD, only 46,400 miles.....£4,495
- 03 53 MG TF 1.8 135bhp 2-dr Convertible. In starlight silver with black interior, alloy wheels, body coloured bumpers, CD, electric windows, only 30,845 miles.....£3,995

- 03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air con, traction control system, only 55,200 miles.....£9,495
- 03 03 BMW 3 series 2.0 318Ci 2-dr convertible. In metallic gold with black leather interior, multi cd, heated seats, alloy wheels, colour coded bumpers, cruise control, air con, only 56,310 miles.....£8,495
- 02 02 AUDI TT Roadster 1.8 T (225) 2-dr Convertible. In silver with grey leather interior, six CD changer, BOSE sound system, 17" alloy wheels, immobiliser only 70,620 miles.....£8,995
- 01 Y Volvo C70 2.4T 2-dr Automatic Coupe. In moonduist with black leather interior, cruise control, climate control, cd, heated seats, only 68,250 miles.....£3,995
- 99 T BMW Z3 1.9 2-dr convertible. In green with green leather interior, alloy wheels, power hood, electric windows, front fogs, only 64,630 miles.....£4,995
- 89 G BMW 3 Series 320i 2.0 2-dr Convertible. In silver with black leather interior, headlamp cleaning system, M-Technic steering wheel, wood effect trim, electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, only 68,140 miles.....£4,995

FAMILY

- 10 10 FORD S-Max 2.0 TDCi (140ps) titanium 5-dr MPV. In moonduist silver with ebony alcantara leather interior, quick-clear screen, climate control, cruise control, phone prep, sports front bumper, one owner, only 8,290 miles.....£19,995
- 09 59 FORD Mondeo 2.0 TDCi (140) Zetec 5-dr Hatchback in stardust silver with ebony interior, bluetooth phone prep, traction control system, air con, quick clear screen, cruise control, only 31,910 miles.....£12,995
- 09 09 FORD Focus 1.8 Titanium 5-dr hatchback. In blue with anthracite interior, DAB radio/cd, cruise control, quick clear screen, reversing sensors, only 28,680 miles.....£9,995
- 09 09 FORD Focus 1.6 Zetec 5-dr hatchback. In panther black with anthracite interior, quick clear screen, privacy glass, air con, only 19,560 miles.....£9,495
- 08 58 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 HDi Desire 5-dr MPV. In oriental blue with black interior, ISOFIX anchorage point, air con, front electric windows, only 36,740 miles.....£7,995
- 07 57 SEAT Altea XL 1.9 TDI Styalence in metallic ruby red with styalence grey interior, rear parking sensors, cd, climate control, cruise control, aux input, only 49,100 miles.....£8,495
- 07 07 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v 98 Dynamique 5-dr Hatchback. In mercury silver with carbon sport interior, air con, CD, front fogs, alarm, only 15,060 miles.....£6,495
- 06 56 RENAULT Kangoo 1.5 Dci venture 5-dr MPV. In cosmic grey with dark interior, cd, electric windows, privacy glass, air con, only 64,030 miles.....£4,995
- 06 06 AUDI A4 2.0TDi S-line 4-dr saloon in brilliant red with mondial black interior, climate control, body coloured bumpers, radio/cd, service history, only 74,400 miles.....£9,995
- 05 55 CITROEN Xsara Picasso 1.6 Desire 2 5-dr MPV in oriental blue with dark interior, air con, power steering, electric windows, service history, one owner, only 62,000 miles.....£4,995
- 05 55 CHEVROLET Lacetti 1.8 CDX Automatic 4-dr saloon in pearl black with bluish grey leather interior, climate control, cd auto-changer, front fog lights, anti lock brakes, only 64,450 miles.....£3,995
- 04 54 FORD Mondeo Ghia 5-Dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with ebony interior, 6-CD changer, automatic air con, alarm, immobiliser, alloy wheels, only 53,000 miles.....£4,395

SMALL

- 09 09 FORD Ka 1.2 Zetec 3-dr hatchback. In dive blue with grey interior, air con, quickclear screen, aux input, alloy wheels, cd, only 22,960 miles.....£7,495
- 09 09 CITROEN C1 1.4 HDi VTR 5-dr Hatchback in metallic blue with grey interior, radio/cd, ABS, power steering, elec front windows, £20 a year road tax, only 14,500 miles.....£7,495
- 08 58 CHEVROLET Matiz 1.0 SE 5-dr Hatchback. In mighty blue with grey interior, air con, central locking, CD, front electric windows, ISOFIX, only 26,560 miles.....£3,995
- 08 08 FORD KA Studio. In panther black with cascade interior, immobiliser, CD, drivers airbag, central locking, only 32,349 miles.....£3,995
- 07 57 RENAULT Clio 1.2 TCE Dynamique SX 3-dr hatchback. In eclipse black with sport dark interior, colour coded bumpers, cd, air con, alloy wheels, privacy glass, electric windows, only 23,430 miles.....£6,495
- 06 06 RENAULT Clio 1.2 16v Campus Sport 3-dr Hatchback in mercury silver with extreme grey interior, air con, cd, colour coded bumpers, front fogs, alloy wheels, only 58,520 miles.....£3,995
- 05 55 TOYOTA Yaris 13 XVVT-i Colour Collection 3-dr hatchback in eclipse black with black/red interior, body coloured bumpers, power steering, alloy wheels, radio/cd, only 65,000 miles.....£4,495
- 05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles.....£4,495



03 03 BMW 3 Series 3.0 330 Ci Convertible in Topaz Blue with Montana grey leather interior, 6-CD changer, heated seats, automatic air con, traction control system, only 55,200 miles.....£9,495



05 55 RENAULT Clio 1.4 16v Expression 3-dr Hatchback. In platinum silver with grey interior, air con, CD, panoramic roof, only 49,600 miles.....£4,495



06 06 AUDI A4 2.0TDi S-line 4-dr saloon in brilliant red with mondial black interior, climate control, body coloured bumpers, radio/cd, service history, only 74,400 miles.....£9,995



53 VOLKSWAGEN Beetle 2.0 2-dr convertible. In aquarius blue with anthracite interior, air con, electronic stability programme traction control system, alloy wheels, only 78,653 miles.....£6,995

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Pictures by PETER GILLING

Kenfig Hill savour success after win secures promotion



Rhodri Clark makes a break.

KENFIG HILL had to play off against Mumbles at Skewen to gain promotion.

They were outstanding, giving their opponents a lesson in fast open rugby in a 48-0 triumph.

The entire team were outstanding, with the forwards dominating the much vaunted Mumbles pack and the backs dazzling with their rugby skills.

Kenfig Hill scorers: Kyle Evans (two tries); Chris Tossell; Matthew Tossell; Rhodri Clark; Gavin Jenkins; Nicky Giles (one try and five conversions).



Chris Tossell grounds the ball.

A NEW season is starting in the Bridgend six-side league next month – and teams are urged to join now.

The long running league, which takes place at Pencoe Comprehensive School on Wednesday, is looking to expand

in time for the big kick-off.

The winners and runners-up in each division will be invited to the national six-a-side football tournament which Leisure Leagues is proud to be a partner of.

All matches are refereed by qualified officials, all equipment is provided, and all profits are

Pugh still leads Hugh James boys order of merit

OTTO MAND (Dewstow) won the North Wales Boys Open at the weekend by a single stroke from Welsh Boys champion Oliver Baker (Cardiff) after rounds of 75, 73, 73 and 73 to collect 150 Hugh James points.

Mand's performance takes him into third place in the Hugh James Boys Order of Merit behind Jack Bush (Morlais Castle) and current leader, Rhys Pugh (Vale of Glamorgan).

Oliver Baker collects 90 Hugh James points and is in fourth place on the table, while the Celtic Manor's Ryan Haskell collects 60 points for his third place finish after rounds of 73, 75, 75 and 75.

B Attack look in the clear



FC Ogmor.

PERSIL BOYS FC have all but handed B Attack the Bridgend six-a-side Premier Division title as they slipped to a 3-2 reverse at the hands of Young Exiles, leaving them six points off the pace with two games remaining.

Misfits secured the First Division crown with ease as Rob Wood orchestrated a 5-1 victory over No Tea Tonight, while Hardly Athletic kept their slim title aspirations alive as they hit Minter Phoenix for six,

who could only reply with one.

Beer Attack moved another step closer to the Wednesday six-a-side title as Gavin Davies inspired a commanding 4-0 win over FC Ogmor. El Wapos are doing their best to take the race down to the wire after squeezing out The Invincibles 2-1, while Cwm Ogmor Wasps humbled Valley Commandos by five goals to nil.

Anyone who wants to join the 6-a-side football leagues in Bridgend can telephone 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

Pencoe Phoenix pick up trophy

PENCOED Phoenix's new sponsor, Andrew Mills of Phoenix Property Agents, is pictured giving Michele Halse, team manager, the WRU development league trophy 2010/2011.

Photo by Julie Hancock



Laleston races offer many thrills!



PHOTOS by GLYN EVANS

AS reported in The GEM last week, thrills and spills were the order of the day at the Llangeinor Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at The Stud, Laleston, near Bridgend.

Here are some more, which saw plenty of horse racing action! pictures of the event



Leisure leagues kicking off

A NEW season is starting in the Bridgend six-side league next month – and teams are urged to join now.

The long running league, which takes place at Pencoe Comprehensive School on Wednesday, is looking to expand

in time for the big kick-off.

The winners and runners-up in each division will be invited to the national six-a-side football tournament which Leisure Leagues is proud to be a partner of.

All matches are refereed by qualified officials, all equipment is provided, and all profits are

donated to Cancer Research, Dogs Trust and the National Blind Children's Society.

Anyone who wants to join the six-a-side league in Wednesday can do so by ringing 0845 230 2340 or logging on to www.leisureleagues.net or emailing info@leisureleagues.net

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